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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

75¢

Volume XXX, Issue No. 189

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Saipan, Tinian, Rota delegations owe $7.16M to general fund. PAGE 2

108 homes require FEMA help to resolve land ownership issues. PAGE 3

Torres supports appeal to extend deadline in filing of CW petitions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed strong support for an extension in the filing of petitions for renewal and transfer of workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several employers and business owners earlier asked Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to make an appeal to the federal government to extend the filing period for CW workers.

See CW on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 22, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,117	30	2,147
Recovered	1,450	55	1,505
Active	577	30	607
Deaths	34	2	36
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		46,527	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	69	0	69
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		19,345*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IN 10TH CIRCUIT ARGUMENT

DOJ seeks to deny birthright citizenship in US territories

EQUALLY AMERICAN, KEIL CREATIONS

John Fitisemanu before the Utah Capitol Building.

On Wednesday, lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice will argue that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit should reverse *Fitisemanu v. United States*, a landmark ruling recognizing that individuals born in U.S. territories have the same right to citizenship as individuals born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

See DOJ on Page 4

SEWER LINE PROJECT

Workers of RNV Construction are seen at the Chalan Kiya roadside, working on a roof structure for housing protection for their generator. This will be their main power source for the preparation of an upcoming sewer line project. They will start digging this week.

NEIL FAMA

House adopts Senate version of $96.47M budget resolution

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REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday adopted the Senate's version of the House Concurrent Resolution that proposes $96.47 million in available revenue and resources for appropriation for government activities in fiscal year 2021.

The Senate's version is $13.81 million more from what the House had originally

See HOUSE on Page 4

Torres signs 2 election laws

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law yesterday a bill that suspends certain CNMI election laws for the Nov. 3 general elections and another legislation that amends the election law to allow a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission to participate and vote in an official meeting through online.

See LAWS on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Whether you get a tattoo for aesthetics, to feel good, to honor someone, or want an important event in your life always remembered, 6ick7zer0 Tattoo Shop is your go-to place.

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NATION

A front-runner to fill the Supreme Court seat is a federal appellate judge who has established herself as a reliable conservative on hot-button legal issues from abortion to gun control.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE

Zendaya said her "heart was filled" when she saw her fellow nominees, cheering on the "Euphoria" actress for becoming the youngest drama lead actress to win an Emmy.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Saipan, Tinian, Rota delegations owe $7.16M to general fund

» **Sen. Manglona cites discrepancy; says Saipan owes general fund almost 20 times more than Rota**

» **IPI paid $120M to CNMI govt in casino annual license fee in 6-year period**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance's detailed accounting of the casino annual license fee fund appropriated to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, showed that the three legislative delegations owe a total of $7.16 million to the general fund, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* that this is so if Finance takes the position that Year 5 of the casino annual license fee funding—$11 million for Saipan and $2 million each for Rota and Tinian—was never allotted to the respective delegations, although Public Law 20-10 specifically appropriated the replenishment of the account from Casino Gross Receipt Tax from fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

"It appears from their initial allotments that they were taking the position that Year 5 money was there, then they later changed their mind when they saw that the general fund had to be replenished," he said.

For a six-year period, 2014 to 2019, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC paid the CNMI a total of $120 million in casino annual license fee.

Asked for comments about Finance's status report on the casino annual license fee fund, Manglona said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig's certification of detailed accounting of the respective senatorial legislative delegation's outstanding obligations to the general fund indicates that he (Manglona) was correct all along in questioning the discrepancy in Finance's accounting.

Manglona said according to Finance, Rota owes $274,032 to the general fund, while the Tinian Legislative Delegation owes $2,078,516, or more than seven times what Rota owes.

He said likewise Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation owes the general fund $4,810,431, or almost 20 times more what Rota owes.

The senator said what he cannot comprehend is that in trying to address the interisland medical referral and medical subsistence funding needs, the administration will not extend the same financial flexibility consideration to the Rota Legislative Delegation that was provided to the two other legislative delegations.

"Funds for the Rota Legislative Delegation seem to be unreasonably held back; and for what purpose?" Manglona said.

He said House Bill 21-116, introduced by Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) and passed by the House of Representatives back in June, reappropriates $290,000 from Public Law 21-10 for interisland medical referral stipend and medical subsistence purposes.

He said Rota patients on interisland medical referral have not received stipend for several months now.

"Presently, they are being sent to Saipan for medical treatment without any stipend and without escorts. This is unreasonable treatment and a great injustice," the senator pointed out.

In his Sept. 8 report about the status of the annual casino license fee fund addressed to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Atalig illustrated the transactions leading to the current deficits on all three senatorial districts.

Atalig said negative balances existed on all three districts beginning Year 1 to Year 6 of the casino annual license fee fund.

He said although they have witnessed some positive balance on these accounts, these amounts remain insufficient to offset the over appropriation and allocation of the annual casino license fee, leaving Saipan, Tinian, and Rota accounts of a deficit.

For the first year of the casino annual license fee, the CNMI received $30 million in 2014.

Atalig said $2 million was appropriated each to Rota and Tinian, while $26 million for Saipan.

For Rota, $1,619,706 was allocated to pay for fiscal year 2014 restoration of the 25% pension reduction for retirees, while for Tinian, $1,202,000, and for Saipan, $12,500,000.

For Saipan, another $12,500,000 was allocated to pay the interest to former defined-benefit members or active members who terminated their membership in the DB plan. Another $1 million was appropriated by the delegation.

Atalig said for Year 1 appropriation of the casino annual license fee, Rota and Saipan had a deficit balance, while Tinian had a surplus balance.

For Year 2 of the casino annual license fee appropriation, the CNMI received $15 million in 2015.

Rota and Tinian each received $2 million, while Saipan got $11 million.

For Rota, $1,540,000 was allocated to pay for FY 2015 25% pension, while for Tinian, $1,100,000, and for Saipan, $10 million.

For Saipan, another $1 million was allocated for the delegation's appropriation.

Atalig said the FY 2015 25% pension amounted to $12,354,284, which exceeded the allocated annual license fund.

Atalig said in Year 2, Rota had a surplus balance, while Tinian had a deficit balance, and Saipan had a compounded deficit balance.

For Year 3 casino annual license fee appropriation, the CNMI received $15 million in 2016.

Rota and Tinian each received $2 million, while Saipan got $11 million.

For Rota, $1,550,000 was appropriated to FY 2016 25% pension, while for Tinian, $1,200,000 for FY 2017 25% pension; and Saipan, $10 million for FY 2016 25% pension.

For Saipan, another $1 million was also for delegation's appropriation.

For Year 3, Atalig said, all three islands had a deficit balance.

For Year 4 casino annual license fee appropriation,

See SAIPAN on Page 4

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Choose from our Kevin's Set Menu options
Enjoy complimentary welcome glass of Sparkling Wine
Complimentary Early Check-In @ 10:00am
Complimentary Late Check-Out @ 5:00pm
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*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rate

108 homes require FEMA help to resolve land ownership issues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the 305 total participating households in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Permanent Housing Construction program, 108 require/required FEMA's legal services assistance to resolve land ownership issues.

FEMA Recovery Office director Sheryl Clark Cochran disclosed yesterday that to date, 48 cases have received a legal ownership resolution through their Expanded Disaster Legal Services (EDLS) program.

Cochran said 40 opted out

» Under FEMA's Expanded Disaster Legal Services program, 48 cases got ownership resolution, 63 are pending

of the EDLS program, with 63 cases currently assigned for resolution.

Asked who are FEMA's lawyers providing assistance, the director said FEMA entered into an intergovernmental service agreement to work with the CNMI's Office of the Attorney General.

She said the OAG has entered into direct contracts with participating local attorneys.

"The CNMI OAG is responsible for implementation of the program with oversight and funding from FEMA," the director said.

Cochran said under their Permanent Housing Construction (PHC) program to build new homes, found eligible are 407 homes on Saipan and 19 homes on Tinian.

Participating in the program are 170 homes on Saipan, and 13 homes on Tinian.

Under PHC repair program, found eligible are 420 homes on Saipan, 30 homes on Tinian.

Participating in the repair program are 112 homes on Saipan, 10 homes on Tinian.

On Saipan, one new home construction was completed Friday, while 24 new homes are currently under construction, 10 awaiting contractual award, and 22 have pending legal assistance. Completed repairs are 56 homes.

On Tinian, no new home construction has been constructed to date, five awaiting contractual award, and three have pending legal assistance.

Three homes have completed repairs.

Cochran in an interview Friday disclosed that some of the survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu's massive destructions on Saipan and Tinian in October 2018 had issues with providing clear deeds or titles to the property proving proper land ownership.

TRIPLE J
35th ANNIVERSARY
SALES EVENT
HYUNDAI mazda MITSUBISHI

2019 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT
11,901 MILES · STK:20D135-A
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $20,391

2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T
8,507 MILES · STK:18HS942
SALE PRICE $21,995
KBB: $24,026

2019 MAZDA CX-9 SPORT
7,552 MILES · STK:18HS952
SALE PRICE $24,995
KBB: $28,153

$0 DOWN *ON APPROVED CREDIT ★ QUALITY USED CARS ★ MANY VEHICLES BELOW COST

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS
16,979 MILES · STK:7HS824
SALE PRICE $11,995
KBB: $13,650

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
9,130 MILES · STK:18HS860
SALE PRICE $15,995
KBB: $19,059

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL
9,729 MILES · STK:8HS900
SALE PRICE $18,995
KBB: $19,982

2016 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT
53,498 MILES · STK:20M107-A
SALE PRICE $13,995
KBB: $17,298

2016 KIA SEDONA LX
35,337 MILES · STK:6HS793
SALE PRICE $16,995
KBB: $19,615

2018 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT
6,471 MILES · STK:18HS860
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $20,685
SOLD

2016 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
31,135 MILES · STK:9D030-A
SALE PRICE $13,995
KBB: $15,507

2019 HYUNDAI KONA L
21,017 MILES · STK:9R240
SALE PRICE $16,995
KBB: $16,992

2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT
15,346 MILES · STK:6HS785
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $24,640

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK LX
99,422 MILES · STK:18HS918
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $18,614

2018 KIA OPTIMA LX
8,915 MILES · STK:18HS924
SALE PRICE $17,995
KBB: $20,656

2016 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 4X4
39,877 MILES · STK:20H022-A
SALE PRICE $24,995
KBB: $34,056
SOLD

2019 KIA SOUL LX
10,356 MILES · STK:19HS937
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $15,955

2018 HONDA FIT HATCHBACK
6,587 MILES · STK:18HS938
SALE PRICE $16,995
KBB: $17,947

2015 FORD EXPEDITION PLATINUM
12,534 MILES · STK:5HS735
SALE PRICE $31,995
KBB: $40,936

2018 KIA FORTE LX
10,808 MILES · STK:18HS919
SALE PRICE $14,995
KBB: $17,676

2016 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD
16,017 MILES · STK:6HS752
SALE PRICE $19,995
KBB: $24,639

2016 FORD F150 XLT LONG BED
47,507 MILES · STK:16HS742-A
SALE PRICE $24,995
KBB: $28,339
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DOJ

From Page 1

Lead plaintiff John Fitisemanu was born in American Samoa—a U.S. territory since 1900. For the last 20 years he has been a taxpaying, U.S. passport holding resident of Utah. However, based on a discriminatory federal law, he is labeled a "national, but not a citizen, of the United States." In December, a district court recognized that he is a natural-born U.S. citizen. The next day, Fitisemanu registered to vote. But because the district court later stayed its ruling pending appeal, Fitisemanu will be unable to vote in November unless the district court's ruling is affirmed by the Tenth Circuit.

"With an important election around the corner, I am hopeful the Tenth Circuit will act quickly so that I will be finally be able to vote," Fitisemanu said in advance of the argument. "All my life I've met my obligations as an American, it is time I'm able to exercise my rights as a citizen."

The Tenth Circuit arguments in Fitisemanu will be held via video conference. Audio of the argument will be streamed live and recorded at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYizIdJz2L4. Fitisemanu is the final case of the day, so is anticipated to start around a bit after 10:30am Mountain Time (12:30pm ET). The panel includes Chief Judge Timothy Tymkovich and Judges Carlos Lucero & Robert Bacharach.

"It is astounding that 120 years after the U.S. flag first began flying over American Samoa and other island territories that the U.S. Department of Justice continues to argue that these places are not part of the 'United States' when it comes to the Constitution's guarantee of birthright citizenship," said Neil Weare, co-counsel in Fitisemanu and president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for the nearly 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories. "But what's even more shocking is that DOJ is relying on a series of controversial and racist Supreme Court decisions that just this summer the Supreme Court said should not be expanded in this way."

The United States arguments against birthright citizenship rely on an expansive interpretation of the Insular Cases, which established a doctrine of "separate and unequal" status for residents of overseas U.S. territories. The Insular Cases have long been compared to *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which provided the legal foundation for racial segregation in the United States. However, unlike Plessy, the Insular Cases have not yet been overruled, although in June the Supreme Court cited approvingly to earlier decisions saying the Insular Cases "should not be further extended." Nonetheless, the United States cited the Insular Cases on a quarter of the pages of its opening brief and fully half the pages of its reply brief before the Tenth Circuit, relying on many of the Insular Cases' most openly racist passages.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LAWS

From Page 1

The two bills, both authored by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), were passed to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Torres informed Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) and House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) that he has signed into laws Senate Bill No. 21-68, SD2, HS1, and Senate Bill No. 21-67, SD1.

The governor said Senate Bill No. 21-68, SD2, HS1 becomes Public Law No. 21-34 and Senate Bill 21-67, SD1 becomes Public Law 21-33.

Public Law 21-34 will adjust the early voting time and add more polling places. It will extend the hours of operations for early voting and election day.

The law will also authorize CEC to collect absentee ballots seven days before the general elections and 14 days after.

The law will give the CEC flexibility to make changes to the election procedures if necessary to mitigate the public health risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Law 21-33 amends the election law to allow a member of CEC to appear, attend, participate, and vote in an official meeting using a telephone, video, or other electronic means due to COVID-19 situation.

Igisomar in an earlier interview said the election bills were really a combination of work between the CEC, his office, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, and the leadership of Hocog in collaboration with the governor, and attorneys of the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor.

HOUSE

From Page 1

adopted in the concurrent resolution that proposes $82.65 million for appropriation.

All 19 representatives voted to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 21-2, SS1, that the Senate had just adopted during a session last Friday. Only Rep. Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) voted against its adoption.

With this development, the Senate must pass its own fiscal year 2021 budget and transmit it to the House for its acceptance or rejection.

The CNMI government must enact a new and balanced budget before Oct. 1 to avoid a partial government shutdown.

Last July 1, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted a revised revenue projection in the amount of $144.41 million. Of this amount, the governor approved $82.65 million for government appropriation.

Last July 29, the House adopted House Concurrent Resolution 21-2 authored by House Ways and Means chairman Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan). The resolution basically concurs with Torres' revised budget proposal for FY 2021 in the amount of $82.65 million.

In voting against the adoption, Maratita cited that there is no appendix as to what they cannot do with the remaining $10 million.

"I understand that they took like 25% to the Public School System and I think that's great. But there's no black and white in it," she pointed out.

Maratita said the Senate should have just include it at least in the language in the House Concurrent Resolution No. 21-2, SS1, so that they know where these allocations are going to.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CW

From Page 1

"At the end of the day, it's really important that we try to support all of our business partners," said Torres during Friday's radio news briefing.

The governor said he's been fighting for the cause of private partners and CW workers.

"We've been to D.C. to show how important they play here. As far as even explaining that, for example, a hotel as you know has 60 CW workers, but then you have 80 U.S. workers. Without the 60 CWs, the hotel will shut down," Torres pointed out.

He said when looking at those numbers, it's not just the actual numbers, but the ripple effect that it causes other private partners.

"So I would like to continue to support what we can do to extend the CW expiration date or, or just pull farther the date of expiration so they can stay on island to assist us," the governor said.

Employers or representatives of 18 businesses recently met with Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago to inform that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have struggles and challenges in meeting the federal immigration guidelines with respect to CW petitions.

Sept. 30 is the deadline for employers to file CW renewal and transfer.

Arago subsequently wrote a letter to Torres, asking for intervention on behalf of the affected 18 employers or businesses.

SAIPAN

From Page 2

the CNMI received $15 million in 2017.

Atalig said that, in September 2017, Public Law 20-10 passed, which allocated $2 million each to Rota and Tinian, and $11 million to Saipan.

For Saipan, he said, $1.5 million is continuously appropriated for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) and $9.5 million to be appropriated by the Delegation.

Under Public Law 20-10, Atalig said, the first $22 million of the Casino Gross Revenue Tax generated from the exclusive casino shall be earmarked and continuously appropriated to supplement the payment of 25% of class members' full benefits and the bonus of all retirees of all three Senatorial Districts.

The secretary said a specific section of Public Law 20-10 freed up the 25% pension reduction restoration allocation under the statute and provided more annual license fee funding for allocation.

Rota and Tinian each received $2 million of the casino annual license fee, while Saipan got $11 million.

Atalig noted that there is no reimbursement to Rota for the FY 2017 25% pension reduction restoration because there was no law passed appropriating for this using the annual license fee.

Ataig said for Tinian, the district also received an additional $1.2 million as reimbursement for their FY 2017 25% pension reduction restoration appropriated using the casino annual license fee in the previous fiscal year.

For Saipan, $10 million was paid for FY 2017 25% pension, and $1.5 million for continuous SHEFA.

Saipan also received an additional $10,146,315 as a reimbursement for their FY 2017 25% pension reduction appropriated using the annual license fee.

For Year 4, Atalig said all three districts had a surplus balance.

For Year 5, the CNMI received $30 million in casino annual license fee in 2018.

Rota and Tinian each received $2 million, while Saipan got $26 million.

Atalig said respective delegations appropriated the annual license fee accordingly mainly to pay back the 25% pension reduction from previous fiscal years and the interest to active members who terminated their membership in the DB plan.

Atalig said due to Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in 2018, available funds at the time were diverted for immediate disaster response efforts.

He said there was no annual license fee allocation made in Year 5.

For Year 6 of the casino annual license fee appropriation, the CNMI received $15,502,570 in 2019.

Rota and Tinian each received $2 million, while Saipan got $11 million.

Atalig said Rota made a $290,000 partial payment of the outstanding obligation to the general fund, while Saipan appropriated $502,570 in sixth-year adjustment reserved to the general fund.

For Year 6, Atalig said all three districts had zero balance.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 I 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
2nd Floor Joeten Dandan Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.zoning.gov.mp

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 09/09/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2253** – Saipan Emerald Villa proposes to occupy a pre-existing 2-storey multifamily apartment for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as a "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 045 A 128 in the village of As Matuis. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2254** – Saipan Emerald Villa proposes to occupy a pre-existing 1-storey single family dwelling for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as a "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 045 A 129 in the village of As Matuis. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2508** – Primo Farms proposes to construct a 1-storey structure for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. 502 NEW-3-5 in the village of Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2595** – Max Investments proposes to utilize cargo storage containers for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. 502 NEW-3-5 in the village of Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2660** – Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to utilize cargo storage containers for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. 053 E 11 in the village of As Teo. This area is zoned as Rural.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-2538** – Tuu Group LLC proposes to construct a 2-storey building structure utilizing cargo storage containers for Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This project is located in Lot No. TR 22774 in the village of As Mahetogh. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Executive (Closed) Session

D. Miscellaneous
1. Next Meeting

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMDdXdFlQRTQ4UkhFRjViUT09
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Oct07

MVA proposes 61% decrease of FY 2021 budget

Due to the lack of funds brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Marianas Visitors Authority proposed a revised spending plan for fiscal year 2021 that drastically cuts its annual budget.

At MVA's board meeting last Sept. 16, managing director Priscilla Iakopo proposed a 61% decrease for FY 2021. She added that the impact of the Department of Housing and Urban Development collections also impacted their decision to revise their budget from $9.4 million to $3.5 million.

In addition to its proposal of cutting down its budget, MVA has also used its reserved funds for payroll.

As of Sept. 11, Iakopo stated that at the end of the fiscal year 2020, the reserve balance will be at $429,000. Additionally, MVA has received $250,000 in hotel occupancy tax collections from the central government last Sept. 11.

As of this year, Iakopo disclosed that MVA has recovered a total of $5.1 million from the Department of Finance, but that's only for fiscal year 2019. She said MVA has yet to collect $1 million. Moreover, the central government owes MVA $6.6 collected in hotel occupancy tax collections for the fiscal year 2020.

According to Iakopo, MVA has been cutting down to the greatest degree, adding that the bulk of cuts come from offshore companies which tallied up to a total of $230,000. As for operations and monthly reoccurring funds from their offshore summed up to $31,000.

Iakopo proposed to add a section in the rights of membership, which will provide relief for their members and its legal counsel has allowed for the change. It was proposed that "The board of directors may approve the temporary adjustment waiver or deferment in the membership fees in order to offer relief to its members during a natural disaster pandemic crisis or any other emergencies that cause significant economic impact to the CNMI provided that such relief does not exceed a period of one year. This adjustment may be exercised upon the governor's issuance of a state of emergency." ***(Justine Nauta)***

CHCC receives flu vaccines

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has received its first shipment of influenza vaccines to support the initiation of flu prevention activities for this flu season. Due to the limited supply per shipment, the CHCC is implementing a three-phased approach for target groups which was informed by general guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Starting this month, the CHCC Immunization Program will supply and administer vaccines to all CNMI healthcare workers (including private clinics) and first responders as part of Phase 1. Beginning these efforts with our healthcare workers is essential to our overall community, as these professionals are charged with maintaining patient care clinics, the emergency department, intensive care units, and other critical hospital services for the CNMI population. Similarly, first responders are critical for the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CHCC Immunization Program is expecting a larger shipment of vaccines to be available for community members on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota beginning in October as part of Phase 2 implementation of the influenza vaccine dissemination approach. Phase 2 includes vaccination of our vulnerable community members, including those with health conditions and pregnant women. The subsequent phase will include the rest of the general population and is estimated to begin the end of October when the majority of influenza vaccines are expected to be received. The CHCC will make formal announcements when community members can receive their flu vaccines and plans for mass vaccination.

Practice the 3 W's

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

■ Practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Wear a face covering.

For more information on flu vaccines, contact the CHCC Immunization Program at (670) 236-8745 or visit https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950. ***(PR)***

COVID-19 task force to continue school inspection

With the assumption that the Public School System will still resume hybrid face-to-face classes come October, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said that inspections are still ongoing for all three islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

With the ongoing issues with face-to-face class resumption, Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig expressed concerns at the BOE meeting last Sept. 11, that the only thing stopping PSS from opening up fully are safety measures.

A common classroom setting will permit approximately 30 desks without the 6 feet distance, however, with the 6 feet distance, Atalig says that PSS will only accommodate 10 desks. He added that particularly, the 6 feet distance is the only thing that's stopping them from reopening schools fully. Wearing a mask and washing hands, though, are doable.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said there are two things that they are basing the face-to-face resumptions on the principal's decision and a vaccine. Adding that, he understands that the community vulnerability is at 1%, however, they want to be mindful of people who are asymptomatic.

The governor's executive orders will allow schools to open, however, Ada added that PSS did a survey with all principals in where they would make a decision if they feel safe to open. Ada confirmed that most didn't feel too safe with the reopening of face-to-face until a vaccine is presented.

Ada said he feels it's better to be safe than sorry, but assured that when they open and come across someone who has tested positive but is asymptomatic, PSS has a plan but could not disclose since it is still in the works.

BOE member Philip Mendiola-Long suggests that PSS administration should propose a plan to present to BOE because it sounds like the reopening of face-to-face resumption is based on feelings and not actual data.

"So I just want to be crystal clear…when BOE members go back and explain it to teachers or to parents on why we're doing what we're doing," said Mendiola-Long. Adding that he'd appreciate a written statement on how and when PSS will open and why they remain closed.

With students/parents going through the difficulties of having to get used to the current online platforms, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said, on radio news briefing last Sept. 18, advised that they reach out to teachers, principals, staff and let them know about their difficulties.

By making your concerns known, Torres encourages asking for other/additional resources so that learning at home, though it may be hard, will be bearable. Additionally, Torres says that it is an obligation that students are given proper education.

Torres says that his children are also having a hard time transitioning to online platforms but puts in more effort. "I encourage everyone, all the students that we do need to put more effort into it, and also be able to adjust the way we do learning but reach out to your teacher and that will be my biggest advice," said Torres. ***(Justine Nauta)***

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Merced M. Tomokane for Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JUAN BLANCO CAMACHO, Deceased.
Civil Action No. 20-0296-CV
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho
Date: October 8, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Supreme Court, Courtroom

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE JUAN BLANCO CAMACHO OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Merced M. Tomokane ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court to issue Letters of Administration and to appoint Michael C. Camacho as administrator of the **ESTATE OF JUAN BLANCO CAMACHO**, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law**, at the above address.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of September 2020.

___/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK

NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
at
NMTI, Lower Base
September 24, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order (Establishment of a quorum)

II. Adoption of Agenda

III. A. NMTI

1. Preparation for Opening of Classes
   a) COVID 19 Compliance
   b) Class Schedule
2. FY 2021 Budget
3. Board of Trustees' Retreat

B. Adjournment

IF YOU BOUGHT A KEVITA MASTER BREW KOMBUCHA PRODUCT ANY TIME PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE MONEY FROM A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.

There is a Proposed Settlement in a Class Action lawsuit that claims KeVita, Inc. ("Defendant") violated state laws regarding the labeling and marketing of KeVita Master Brew Kombucha Products. Defendant denies it did anything wrong and denies all of the claims made in this lawsuit.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?
Anyone in the United States or U.S. territories who bought KeVita Master Brew Kombucha Products prior to September 16, 2020 in the United States or U.S. territories is considered a potential Class Member and is eligible to file a Claim. A full list of the Products covered by the Proposed Settlement is available at the website located at **www.MasterBrewSettlement.com** or by calling **(844) 702-2784**.

WHAT DOES THIS PROPOSED SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?
If the Proposed Settlement is approved and becomes final, it will provide Benefits to Class Members. Defendant will make payments to those Class Members who file Valid Claims by submitting a Claim Form by the deadline, as well as pay for costs associated with the notice and administration of the Settlement, Attorneys' Fees and Expenses to the attorneys for the Class, and an Incentive Award to the named Plaintiffs.

In addition, Defendant has agreed to modify the labels of the Products on a going forward basis, so that to the extent that Defendant continues to state that the Products contain "LIVE PROBIOTICS," Defendant will also, at its sole discretion, make one of the following statements somewhere on the Products' label: "enhanced with live probiotics," "boosted with live probiotics," or "live probiotics added"; and to the extent that Defendant continues to utilize pasteurization during the manufacturing process for the Products, Defendant will reference pasteurization somewhere on the Products' label, as determined in Defendant's sole discretion. Full details about the Proposed Settlement are in the Settlement Agreement (called the "Settlement" and available at **www.MasterBrewSettlement.com**).

HOW CAN I GET A PAYMENT?
If you are a Class Member, you may submit a Claim Form online at **www.MasterBrewSettlement.com** or by mail by **January 14, 2021**. Payments for those submitting valid, timely Claims could be $0.30 for up to 200 Products (with Proof of Purchase) or up to 30 Products (without Proof of Purchase), depending on the number of Products you purchased.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?
If you are a Class Member, you may (1) do nothing; (2) exclude yourself from the Proposed Settlement; (3) submit a Claim Form; or (4) object to the Proposed Settlement and, if you choose, go to a hearing about the fairness of the Proposed Settlement.

If you do not want to be bound by the Proposed Settlement, you must **affirmatively exclude yourself** by letter **postmarked by December 15, 2020**. If you exclude yourself, you cannot get a Benefit from this Settlement, but you will not be barred from filing another lawsuit against Defendant about the claims in this case.

If you remain a Class Member, you may submit a Claim Form and/or object to the Proposed Settlement. All Claim Forms must be submitted by **January 14, 2021**. Objections must be filed with the Court and served on (meaning, mailed to) the Settlement Administrator, Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel by **December 30, 2020**.

PLEASE SEE THE LONG FORM NOTICE at **www.MasterBrewSettlement.com** or call **(844) 702-2784** for complete instructions on how to file a claim, object, or exclude yourself, and other important information. The Court will hold a hearing in this case on **January 20, 2021** at **8:20 a.m.** in Department 4 of the Superior Court of California for the County of Ventura, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009, to consider approval of the Proposed Settlement, a payment of up to a total of $835,000 to Class Counsel (Bradley/Grombacher LLP) for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and a payment of up to a total of $150,000 to the 19 named Plaintiffs as an Incentive Award, and related issues. The motion(s) by Class Counsel for those fees, costs, and Incentive Awards for the named Plaintiffs will be available on the Settlement Website after they are filed and before the above hearing.

You may appear at the hearing, but you are not required to appear.

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?
Visit **www.MasterBrewSettlement.com** or call **(844) 702-2784** or write to **KeVita Settlement, c/o Settlement Administrator, PO Box 41920, Philadelphia PA 19101-1920**.

www.MasterBrewSettlement.com
(844) 702-2784

GAIN offers $2K reward to catch dog killer

GUAM—A dog was found dead last Monday in Talofofo, having drowned after being tied to a heavy rock and thrown off a bridge. Guam Animals In Need (GAIN) is issuing a reward of $2,000 for information leading to the arrest of the killer.

The body of the dog was spotted by a local resident running along Route 4 in Talofofo at 3pm on Sunday. Halfway across the bridge, located near Jeff's Pirate Cove and Ipan, he noticed a strange object floating on the ocean-facing side of the bridge. When he stopped to inspect, he realized it was a dog tied to a rock.

"I saw the body because it was low tide," said the runner, who wishes to remain anonymous. He and his wife called 911 to report the incident, and GPD responded to begin an investigation. "This is such a horrific, vile and cruel thing to do to such an innocent animal," said the wife. "We just don't feel safe knowing someone who could do such revolting actions is out there in our neighborhoods. It's sickening and worrisome. My heart hurts so bad knowing what torture that poor pet had to endure up until the end," she added.

GAIN is offering a $2,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for killing the dog. Anyone with information is urged to contact GPD, or GAIN at 653-4246 or info@guamanimals.org. For those wishing to remain anonymous and collect the reward, contact Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-HELP (4357) or guam.crimestoppersweb.com.

Based on preliminary pictures taken at the scene of the crime, veterinarians contacted by GAIN estimate the drowning occurred sometime between last Monday and Saturday. "We don't know when exactly this happened. But if it was near low tide, the dog may have struggled to keep its head above water. I pray they didn't suffer long," said Cyrus Luhr, GAIN board president.

"Did the dog trust the person walking them to the edge of the bridge? At what point did they realize something was wrong? I can't imagine the pain and terror this dog experienced in its final moments," he added.

GAIN is urgently requesting that the Guam Police Department bring the dog's body to the animal shelter, so it can be frozen and examined by the proper medical authorities to find more information, including scanning for a microchip. "We made the request and are awaiting word from GPD on the location of the body," said Luhr.

GAIN reminds the public that it is a felony to cruelly kill pets. "If someone no longer wants their pet, please don't kill them. You can bring any unwanted pets to GAIN and we'll take them in for free," said Luhr. "We are struggling with COVID19 impacts, so we may need to schedule non-emergency intakes, but we will always work with you to find a positive solution. Animal abuse and killing is never the answer," he added.

GAIN continues to advocate for Bill 185-35, the PAWS Act (also known as Pugua's Law), which is currently being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General of Guam. Once adopted, the measure will modernize animal cruelty laws in Guam.

GAIN is also awaiting word regarding the investigation into Walter's killing, a neighborhood pet whose throat was slashed in late July. ***(PR)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-025

SUBMISSION DATE: November 3, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Construction of Garapan Fishing Base Dock Facility, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **September 23, 2020** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 16, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 26, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-026

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M

"Phase I Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO THE GOVERNOR OF
MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-027

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M

"Phase II Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 10:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO THE GOVERNOR OF
MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-028

SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"Phase 3 Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 11:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

VFW Post 3457 accepting applications for contests

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Are you passionate about American history, traditions, institutions, civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism? The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 is now accepting applications for the yearly program scholarship contest Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers Award for students and teachers.

The VOD is for grades 9th to 12th, Patriot's Pen is for grades 6th to 8th, and Smart/Maher Teacher Awards offer three categories kindergarten to 5th grade, 6th grade to 8th grade, and 9th grade to 12th grade. The deadline for applicants is Oct. 31, 2020.

According to VFW Post 3457 requirements, the VOD's theme is "Is This Country the Founders Envisioned," PP's theme is "What is Patriotism to Me," and the Smart/Maher Teacher Award anyone from kindergarten to 12th grade can nominate teachers who teach citizenship education at least half of the school day in a classroom environment and promote American's history, traditions, and institutions effectively. Applicants must describe the nominee for the Smart/Maher Teacher Award in 350 words or fewer and why they feel their nominee should be selected.

For VOD, nominees have to download the VOD entry form and brochure to submit your essay to the VFW Post 3457, and students should also record their reading of the draft to an audio CD or flash drive. The recording has to be at a minimum of three minutes and no longer than five minutes.

For Patriot's Pen, the nominee has to download and complete the PP entry form and brochure, and essays must be no less than 300 words and cannot exceed 400 words and should be submitted to the VFW Post 3457 headquarters.

The judging goes as follows: first at the Post level (Saipan), second at the district level (Marianas), and then against other entries from Posts in Asia. The National VOD winner will receive a $30,000 scholarship and the PP winner will receive a $5,000 award.

Those who are interested can contact Mariano Fajardo at (670)285-0613 or drop entries off at the VFW Post 3457 located on Palm St. in Garapan after 4pm.

OPA: Citizen-Centric Report due on Oct. 30

This is to remind all reporting agencies that the Citizen-Centric Report (CCR) is due on Oct. 30, 2020. Please forward all reports to mail@opacnmi.com. Failure to file will result in a penalty of $50 per day for first time offenses and $100 per day for second or subsequent offenses until the violation is cured.

The CCR is a four-page report that was created by the Association of Government Accountants as a way to simplify communication between the government and its citizens. The 20th NMI Legislature passed P.L. 20-83 which requires all agencies to file a CCR.

This law requires CCR submissions by "every secretary, director, administrator, president or head of a Commonwealth agency, including line departments and agencies, autonomous and semi-autonomous agencies, public corporations, the mayor's offices, municipal councils, and boards and commissions." An electronic copy of the report shall be submitted to the Office of the Public Auditor and the presiding officers of the Legislature. Additionally, the report shall be posted on the website of the entity, the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Public Auditor, and the CNMI Legislature.

For more information, visit OPA's website at http://opacnmi.com or contact our office at (670) 322-6481/2. ***(PR)***

7th Women's Summit to be held virtually

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women's Association and Women's Affairs Office is set for a daylong CNMI Women's Summit this time through a virtual platform tomorrow, Sept. 24, from 8am to 5pm with the theme of "Continuing to Rise," and "Women Leading Sustainable Development."

Northern Marianas College has also agreed to help them with the summit by streaming it online.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CWO and WAO had to postpone the Women's Summit that was supposed to be held in March. Cecilia Taitano, CWA board president, said that through a virtual platform, not only will people from Saipan see what they are doing for women empowerment but so will everyone else around the world, which leaves her anxious.

At the Women's Summit press conference last Sept. 21, Taitano says that there is a list of panelists that will be presenting about issues on disaster recovery economic growth, health matters, military buildup, etc.

Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, the special advisor to the WAO, shares the same feelings as Taitano—anxious and excited. Camacho-Ogumoro hopes that with this summit, women all over will practice, benefit, be engaged, and share the knowledge with other women.

Since 2013, the CWA has taken the lead into planning and developing the annual summits. According to CWA president, Felicidad Ogumoro, CWA has been successful with the partnership they have with the WAO and community partners.

"These summits that we have been conducting are very consistent with our mission, and that mission is to empower women to succeed as leaders in the home, and in the community in our homes, and in the communities we are a part of," said Ogumoro.

Ogumoro added that CWA's vision is that women will be participating fully in political, economic, and social development in the CNMI. Additionally, she stated that during this era you can see how many things have changed compared to approximately 40 years ago.

Ogumoro confirmed those who will be presenting which are Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy corporate director Zenie P. Mafnas, and Office of Planning and Development's Erin Derrington.

For more information, you can check the CWA's Facebook page.

Tropical Storm 14 continues to move away from Marianas

Tropic Storm 14 continues north away from the Marianas and is expected to continue on this route.

As of 1pm Monday, Tropical Storm 14 was seen located at 24.9N 133.9E which is about 1020 miles northwest of Saipan, 1060 miles northwest of Guam, 400 miles east-southeast of Okinawa, and 465 miles west of Iwo To Island.

Tropical Storm 14 carries a maximum sustained winds of 50 mph and it was last seen moving 360 degrees north at 7 mph and is expected to continue this slow northward motion through yesterday.

Maximum sustained winds continue to increase and 14W is forecast to intensify further through Tuesday evening.

Tropical storm force winds extend outward from the center up to 160 miles to the east and up to 65 miles to the west. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS
ITB20-GOV-107

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Arnold L Palacios, through the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available for pick up at the Hazard Mitigation Office located at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning September 11, 2020. A non-refundable payment of $25.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented at the Hazard Mitigation Office on Capitol Hill. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **Friday, September 25, 2020, 10:30 am ChST at the Hazard Mitigation Office Conference Room** with a **limit of two (2) people per company due to COVID-19 social distancing** located at the Office of the Governor, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Mr. Benjie Pangelinan in writing by e-mail to bpangelinan@omb.gov.mp or fax to (670) 664-2408 on or before Tuesday, September 29, 2020. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-107 Supply and Installation of Typhoon shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:30 am ChST October 8, 2020.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:30 am. ChST October 8, 2020 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 8, 2020** and mailed to the Director of **Procurement and Supply at P.O. BOX 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950** and the bid documents must be received no later than **October 16, 2020.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, on Saipan at **10:30 am ChST, October 16, 2020.** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:30 am ChST, October 8, 2020.**

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) U.S. Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange
4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 Calendar Days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

• ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• ***Contingent Fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20 – 039

Opening Date: September 21, 2020
Closing Date: October 2, 2020

POSITION TITLE:	**Laboratory Analyst**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water & Wastewater Laboratory**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$40,084.00 - $54,113.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Two (2) years, subject to renewal**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Water Laboratory Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Performs laboratory testing and analysis of water and wastewater samples in accordance with Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.
- Calibrates and maintains laboratory equipment; prepares solutions, standards and media for chemical and microbiological testing.
- Maintains live bacteria cultures; determines volumes and degree of dilution of samples.
- Performs and ensures all laboratory testing meets established quality controls and standards criteria.
- Prepares and cleans glassware for testing ensuring sterilization standards are maintained.
- Prepares and enters data in system and reports; identify and report atypical results.
- Maintain laboratory logs, records and files including records of quality control functions.
- Maintain data and reporting in accordance with BECQ and EPA requirements.
- Identify and troubleshoot issues; make recommendations to resolve issues; review procedures and recommend changes or updates as required.
- Orders and maintains inventory of supplies, parts, and equipment; provide specifications and recommendations for replenishment or replacement of supplies and equipment.
- Collects field samples including well, safe drinking water, and wastewater samples; determines and gathers appropriate sample containers.
- Ensures validity of samples collected including sample holding time and temperature ranges.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in physical science, chemistry, biology, or other related science with at least two (2) years of experience in an environmental, microbiology, or chemistry laboratory is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to perform essential duties may be acceptable.
Knowledge of: Chemistry and microbiology; Laboratory sampling, testing, and analysis methods, equipment and procedures. Mathematical concepts; Recordkeeping principles; Customer service principles; Safe work practices; Using computers, including sending business email and use of Excel and Word.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying written laboratory procedures, applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Analyzing water and wastewater samples and testing for EPA compliance; Evaluating, calculating and determining test results; Preparing test environment utilizing appropriate solutions, standards, and media. Calibrating and maintaining laboratory equipment. Reviewing and monitoring processes for quality control standards. Identifying, troubleshooting and recommending resolutions to issues. Reviewing procedures and recommending necessary changes. Ordering and maintaining supplies and inventory. Review and evaluate supply and equipment specifications providing recommendations. Collecting field samples and validating samples for testing; Maintaining laboratory records and files; Cleaning and maintaining laboratory equipment and supplies; Providing attention to detail; Adhering to safe work procedures, to include safe handling of acids, bases and wastewater. Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently and effectively exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Tel. No. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20 – 040

Opening Date: September 16, 2020
Closing Date: September 29, 2020

POSITION TITLE:	**Dispatch Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**Chief of Administration/Customer Service/Call Center**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service; and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to 1 year of customer service experience.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; receiving and routing service or problem calls; entering, updating and maintaining data; organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 189

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Remembering Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a trailblazer for women

As students from afar of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died Friday at 87, how are we to assess her legacy? Simply: She was a fervent advocate for women's equality. From her early days arguing landmark gender discrimination cases for the American Civil Liberties Union to her nearly three decades on the high court, Ginsburg was a trailblazer for gender equality.

For the next six weeks, though, as we navigate a painfully combative presidential election, that legacy is likely to be overshadowed by the fight over her seat. Within moments of the announcement of her death, ugly politics emerged, as they inevitably would. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell wasted no time announcing the Senate would act on a soon-to-be-named nominee of President Donald Trump, even though Election Day is weeks away. It is less clear if McConnell will push for a vote before or after the results of the Nov. 3 election are known.

We can call McConnell's stance hypocrisy, tragedy or reality: It is clear when it comes to judicial nominees, whoever controls the Senate makes the rules. Elected officials, including presidents and senators, are in office until the moment they aren't. There is nothing in the constitution to dictate when presidents can or cannot move forward with a pick. There is no official thing as "election season," and no clock that runs out on a Senate committee voting.

And as we have witnessed over time, there is no tact or courtesy in politics that either side must practice. Parties have argued this issue both ways when it suits them. President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland in the last year of his second term — we urged an up-or-down vote — but the Senate sat on it. Years earlier, one Democratic senator took an opposite approach. He said: "Once the political season is underway, and it is, action on a Supreme Court nomination must be put off until after the election campaign is over." That was Joe Biden.

The Senate then will proceed, and the rank hypocrisy of McConnell and his party who sat out the vacancy of the late Justice Antonin Scalia in 2016 will be on full display. It may backfire, putting at-risk GOP senators into hot seats and exposing them to an even more resolved Democratic electorate. The Senate has the right to proceed. It will do so at its own peril.

Ginsburg would not approve, even though she a master at unforgiving opinion writing when it suited the moment. She is remembered for her searing dissent in the 2014 Hobby Lobby case. The Court upheld in a 5-4 decision that the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and that Hobby Lobby as a corporation could reject contraceptive coverage in its health plans to employees. The decision widened the doorway to claim religious exemptions and limit access to birth control. It set off a firestorm.

See RUTH on Next Page

Next president must fill Ginsburg seat

By BILL LUEDERS
Tribune News Service

Bill Lueders is editor of The Progressive. *This column was produced for the magazine's Progressive Media Project and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's untimely death presents a do-or-die moment for American democracy.

If our democracy is going to survive, in any meaningful sense, President Donald Trump and the Republicans must not be allowed to pick her successor to the U.S. Supreme Court — unless they win the next election.

The GOP's pronouncements in 2016, when the Senate refused to even hold a hearing on President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, were crystal clear. Back then, they said the 237 days between Garland's nomination and the election that brought Trump to power was not long enough.

"Given that we are in the midst of the presidential election process," wrote Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and a Senate colleague in 2016, "we believe that the American people should seize the opportunity to weigh in on whom they trust to nominate the next person for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court."

Now McConnell and the Republicans are saying that the 46 days between Ginsburg's death and the Nov. 3 election is not too short a time to move forward with a new pick. They want to be able to fill Ginsburg's seat with her ideological opposite no matter who wins the presidential contest in November.

In 2016, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I want you to use my words against me. If there's a Republican president in 2016 and a vacancy occurs in the last year of the first term, you can say Lindsey Graham said, 'Let's let the next president, whoever it might be, make that nomination.'"

Graham, who went on to become the committee's chair, now says he will support Trump "in any effort to move forward regarding the recent vacancy created by the passing of Justice Ginsburg."

The hypocrisy is beyond sickening. It is dangerous.

As Obama wrote in his statement on Ginsburg's passing, "A basic principle of the law—and of everyday fairness—is that we apply rules with consistency, and not based on what's convenient or advantageous in the moment. The rule of law, the legitimacy of our courts, the fundamental workings of our democracy all depend on that basic principle."

Obama added that the issues that the court will have a role in deciding, including "whether or not our economy is fair, our society is just, women are treated equally, our planet survives and our democracy endures," were too important for "anything less than an unimpeachable process."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a lifelong champion of the ideal of fairness. As a lawyer, she argued six sex-discrimination cases before the Supreme Court, winning five of them, years before President Bill Clinton tapped her for the court. As a Supreme Court justice, she wrote powerful dissents against court decisions that denied recourse to victims of gender-based pay disparity and others that opened the door to state voter suppression efforts.

What Trump and the Republicans have in mind is nothing less than the defilement of Ginsburg's legacy. This is not what she wanted, or why she worked so hard to fight the cancer that ultimately claimed her life. "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed," she said in a statement dictated shortly before her death to her granddaughter.

This is a moment that will test our character as a nation because the right course of action is so clear. Mitch McConnell and the Republicans must not be allowed to apply a wholly contrary standard to what they swore by before.

They must be stopped. By any nonviolent means necessary.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It's the economy, stupid: Biden frames the choice as between Scranton and Park Avenue

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

WASHINGTON—When this presidential campaign began, the economy was supposed to be President Donald Trump's strongest selling point—even after the coronavirus threw the nation into recession.

"I built it once, and I'll build it again," Trump said, claiming credit for the decade-long expansion that began years before he came to the White House.

Even now, while the president is running behind Joe Biden, most polls suggest that a narrow majority still considers Trump the candidate most likely to help the economy succeed. While the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has added a wild card to the presidential contest, the economy is now at the forefront.

And Biden has decided to make a fight of it, if belatedly.

In recent weeks, the Democratic challenger — who initially cast the campaign as a battle over "the soul of a nation," then focused on Trump's chaotic response to the COVID-19 pandemic—has increasingly taken aim at the president's advantage on economic issues.

In recent speeches, Biden has alleged that Trump failed to keep one of his key promises, the revival of manufacturing. He's right; U.S. manufacturing industries were in a recession before the pandemic, partly because of Trump's trade wars.

Biden also is casting himself as a child of the working class, and Trump as the privileged heir to a real estate fortune.

"We're used to guys who look down their nose at us … and think that we're suckers," he said at a CNN town hall near his boyhood home of Scranton, Pa. "I really do view this campaign as a campaign between Scranton and Park Avenue … . All he thinks about is the stock market."

It's an argument aimed squarely at working-class white voters who backed Barack Obama in 2008 but switched sides in 2016 to vote for Trump, especially in key industrial states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Biden has been emphasizing two elements of his economic plan: an increase in the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour from $7.25, and measures to promote manufacturing. Among them: Increase federal purchases of U.S.-made goods, enforce a strict "Buy American" policy, impose tax penalties on firms that move jobs overseas, and reward them for bringing jobs home.

But those planks are only a small part of Biden's sprawling economic platform — 47 proposals, by one count, under the tongue-twisting title of "Building Back Better." Other ideas include plans to rebuild roads, bridges, electricity grids and other infrastructure; expand sick pay and parental leave; increase the child care tax credit for most families; provide universal pre-K education; and boost elder care subsidies.

He also promises ambitious climate change and clean-energy proposals. "When I hear global warming, I think jobs," Biden said last week.

Progressive Democrats and others who've urged Biden to inject more economic populism into his pitch are applauding. "He's moving in the right direction," longtime Democratic strategist Stanley Greenberg, a past critic, told me. "He's offering a more powerful contrast with Trump."

Biden's spending proposals would cost an estimated $5.4 trillion over the next 10 years and raise federal spending to 24% of gross domestic product, according to researchers at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. That would be the highest sustained federal spending in half a century, although lower than the temporary economic responses to the 2008 financial crash and the 2020 pandemic.

He would pay for most of that spending with higher taxes on corporations and individuals earning $400,000 or more. He's casting those levies in class terms as well.

"I'm not looking to punish anybody, but damn it, it's about time the super wealthy and corporate America start paying their fair share," he said in Duluth, Minn., on Friday.

It adds up to a plan that's considerably bigger in both spending and tax increases than anything President Obama pursued in the wake of the 2008 financial crash. But then, the impact of the current crises in the economy and public health is greater than what Obama faced.

With his far-reaching responses, Biden not only offers a contrast with Trump — the Republican Party failed to offer a platform for the first time in its history this year — but has also united his own party, from deficit-conscious moderates like himself to free-spending progressives like former rival Bernie Sanders.

"Joe Biden is absolutely right," the Vermont senator wrote on Twitter on Friday.

"The Democratic Party has moved to the left big time — not because of ideological arguments, but based on the facts of the case," Jared Bernstein, a longtime Biden advisor, said. "We have big plans because we have big problems."

Whether a President Biden could enact such sweeping plans depends on Democrats also taking over the Senate. To take an obvious example, tax increases on high-income households are anathema to most Republicans. And without additional revenue, Biden won't have the money to promote clean energy or subsidize child care.

But the argument over the scale of Biden's ambition is over. There's nothing small about his proposals, and he's now made them central to his campaign.

Voters have a stark choice: an interventionist government taxing the wealthy to help lower-income families get through hard times, or a plutocrat-friendly administration relying on lower taxes and deregulation to let the economy heal itself.

This election isn't only about the soul of the nation anymore. It's about its paychecks and pocketbook, too.

Shame and pride meet somewhere in the middle

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.the United States.

How much shame are we obliged to feel about our nation's racist past? And how much pride do we have a right to enjoy about how we became a nation?

These two questions are actually positive and negative expressions of the same question, and they both have the same answer, which we'll consider in due course.

In the meantime, both questions were evoked by President Donald Trump's speech at the National Archives last Thursday, Constitution Day. The occasion was, as Trump put it, the "very first White House Conference on American history...so important."

Mostly Trump addressed the second question, asserting that our pride in our country is insufficient.

Our nation's founding led to the creation of "the most exceptional nation in the history of the world," "the most fair, equal and prosperous in human history." Unfortunately, the political left is attempting "to demolish this treasured and precious inheritance. We can't let that happen."

Trump continued: "The left-wing rioting and mayhem are the direct result of decades of left-wing indoctrination in our schools." His solution: "We must clear away the twisted web of lies in our schools and classroom."

He announced the creation of the 1776 Commission, which will "promote patriotic education" and support a "pro-American curriculum that celebrates the truth about our nation's great history."

That's the carrot. If it doesn't work, the stick follows: "If you demolish a statue without permission you immediately get 10 years in prison." (Presumably after due process and a trial; Trump didn't say what he means by the ominous term "immediately.")

Certainly there's nothing wrong with being more or less proud of the land into which we were accidentally born. But Trump's overwrought rhetoric should make us wary, lest we replace left-wing indoctrination with right-wing indoctrination, which, if we're not careful, is separated only by degrees from the coercive super-nationalism of totalitarian states.

The question of shame versus pride is both communal and personal. All of us have our own history with race. Here's my example: Some of my ancestors were white supremacists and slaveholders. In fact, on March 6, 1860, my great-great uncle attended a "Negro sale," reporting that "Negroes did not sell so high as they did the first of January."

He bragged to his brother: "I bought one little boy about 10 years old for $1151.00, about as good a bargain as was sold on that day."

Am I personally embarrassed by this shameful episode? Not in the least. It embodies a 19th century America that, north and south, largely accepted the lie of Black inferiority and depended on it for part of our national prosperity. White Americans shouldn't be unduly obliged to feel shame for a shameful history. But they should also be cautious about taking an indiscriminate and uncritical pride in it.

All Americans would be better served by a more informed and realistic understanding of our history, at its worst and at its best. Trump's 1776 Commission begins with an agenda that has nothing to do with understanding history: "Our youth will be taught to love America, with all of their heart and all of their soul."

The danger lies in producing a cohort of students who can recite the Gettysburg Address but have no idea what the Civil War was about.

I'd rather understand America in its full spectrum, from my slave-holding ancestor to Martin Luther King, Jr. As Trump likes to say, "It is what it is."

But I agree with Trump about one thing: We are an exceptional nation. I'm not sure that we're "the most exceptional nation in the history of the world," but our American experiment in democracy is indeed remarkable.

But exceptionality means more if other nations see us as exceptional rather than if we constantly assert it ourselves. In fact, the more we brag about it, the less exceptional we are.

And we'd be a better nation if we had the strength and courage to accept our own history, without undue shame or pride. Now that would be truly exceptional, indeed.

RUTH

From Page 8

Ginsburg in her dissent and in interviews later made clear the constitutional boundaries she believed her colleagues wrongly crossed, as well as her personal offense at their expansive interpretation of RFRA. Limiting the ability of women to access contraception was, in her view, a violation of a woman's basic right to chart her own destiny. She called the decision "of startling breadth."

In her final days, Ginsburg asked that her replacement be nominated by the next president, after the election. It appears she will not get her wish.

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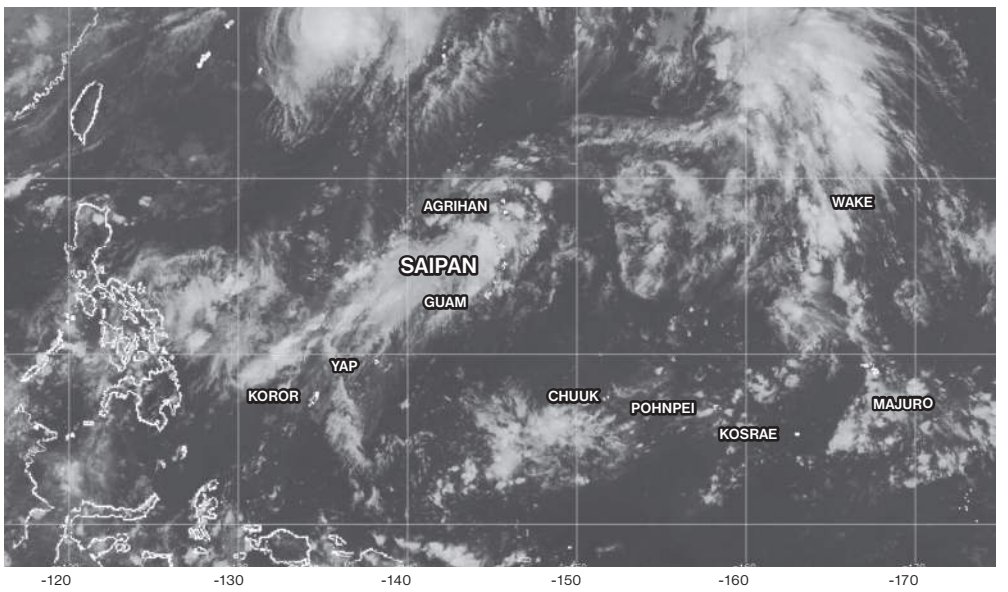
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 77°	87° 78°	89° 78°	87° 76°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies are present across the Marianas this morning, with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly west of the islands, moving northeast. ASCAT analysis shows an east-west trough north of Saipan, with gentle to moderate southwest winds prevailing south of the trough across the islands. Seas are near 3 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:40 AM	11:13 PM	-
Thursday	12:40 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 AM	1:37 PM
Saturday	-	1:05 AM	2:30 PM
Sunday	-	2:01 AM	3:18 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Showers	79° / 59°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Rain	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	88° / 78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	83° / 70°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Showers	79° / 70°
Rome	Sunny	75° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 65°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 59°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	79° / 66°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	86° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:12 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.04
1:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
6:45 PM	LOW TIDE	1.21
11:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.77

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

6ick7zer0 Tattoo Shop: *Life stories on skin*

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
6ick7zer0 Tattoo Shop business owner and tattoo artist Walter Florencio Jr with his wife, Stephani Florencio, who does decal stickers for cars, boats and dirt bikes available at the shop.

Whether you get a tattoo for aesthetics, to feel good, to honor someone, or want an important event in your life always remembered, 6ick7zer0 Tattoo Shop located in Puerto Rico is your go-to place. Managed by tattoo artist Walter Arellano Florencio Jr., his 13 years of experience of making life moments into artwork has gained respect and a following.

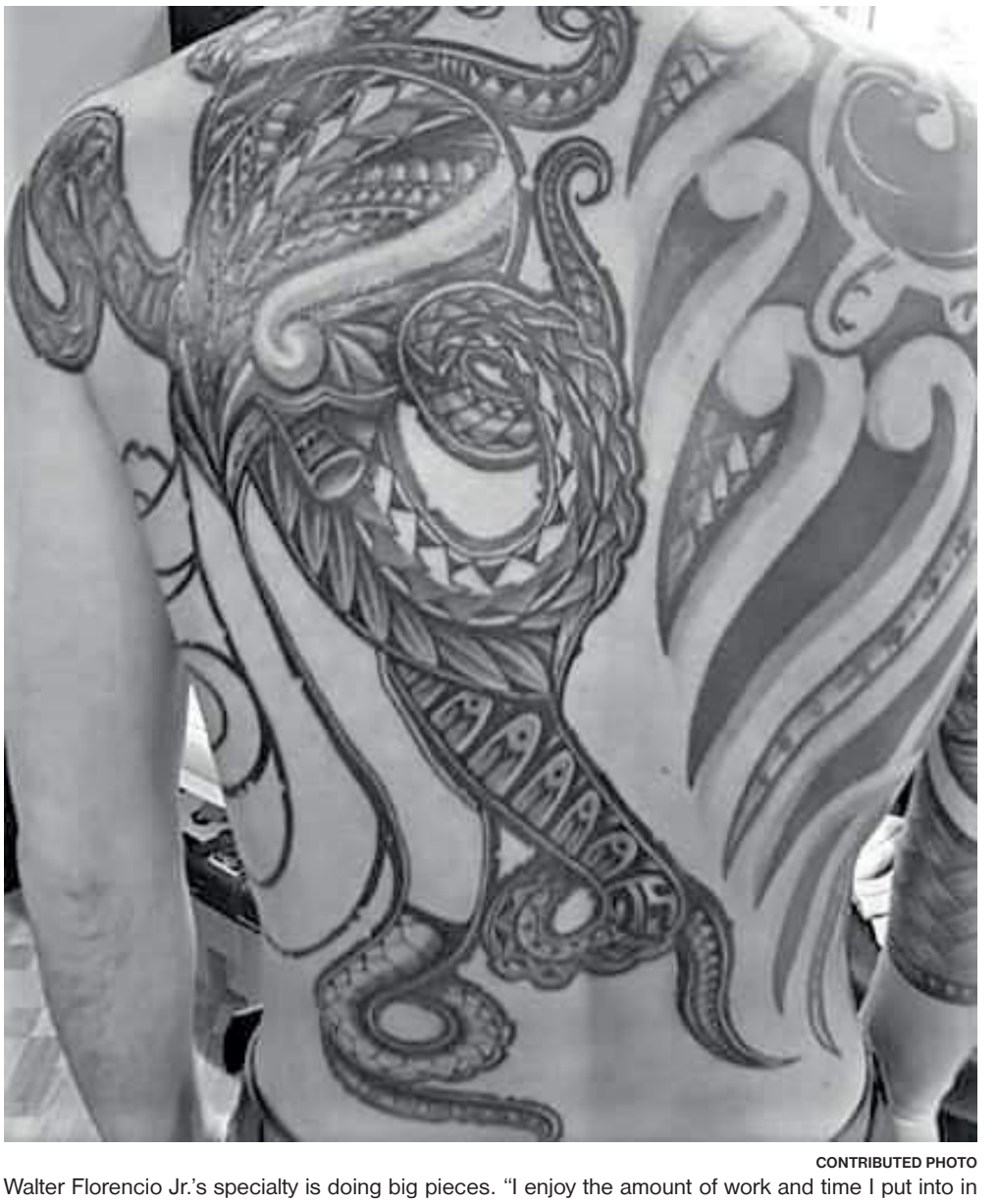
"I love this profession that I am in where I can put or relay stories on people's skin. There is no tattoo industry on island and there are only a few people who do this as a profession and as a passion…I learned the art of tattooing on my own as I didn't had no mentor or any person giving me advice back in 2007," he said.

"Not a lot of people were doing legitimate tattoos… part of this passion of mine was inspired and fueled by my mother who is an artist. My older sister and I are also on the same path and I believe being an artist is both innate and an acquired skill. I grew up in an artistic environment and all I needed to do was to upgrade from pencil and paper to needle and skin," he added.

One of Florencio Jr.'s goals is to change the mind set of people about tattoos. "I want to change the way older generations saw tattoos back then... there was a negative stigma that went with it. But with my generation now, tattoos now are more of a story and sometimes a reminder in life to look back at so one can move forward," he said.

"My forte is tattooing big pieces… I enjoy the amount of work and time I put into in that is why I allot time for them. I also do small pieces and I can do them quick like six or seven pieces in one day. Over the years, I have learned to manage time spent on every piece—big or small," he added.

To date, Florencio Jr. has lost count as to how many inks he has done on clients. "There is so many and since I have been in this business for so long my most memorable ones were when I was a child…Each artist has a way of doing their art and I believe I have a style no other artist has as this gift is unique," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Walter Florencio Jr.'s specialty is doing big pieces. "I enjoy the amount of work and time I put into in that is why I allot time for them," he said.

"The tattoo business is based on respect I value the trust that my clients put upon me and my work. They come to me because they say they like my style of tattoo and the way I see and interpret my own designs. My designs are the kind that you would not be able to take to another artiest because you will probably not get the same result," he added.

6ick7zer0 Tattoo Shop is open from 9am to 9pm. For more information or book for an appointment, call (670) 783-7156 or check out them out on FaceBook:6sic7zero and on Instagram: florencio.walter or 6ick7zer0_Tattoo_Shop.

Democrats unveil temporary funding bill to avert shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)— Democrats controlling the House unveiled a government-wide temporary funding bill on Monday that would keep federal agencies fully up and running into December. The measure would prevent a partial shutdown of the government after the current budget year expires at the end of the month, but Republicans immediately protested, and a Senate floor fight appears likely.

The temporary funding measure provoked Republicans and President Donald Trump, who were denied a provision that would give the administration continued authority to dole out Agriculture Department farm bailout funds. With just nine days before the end of the fiscal year, a potential shutdown can't be dismissed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had initially indicated she would add to the measure language that would permit Trump to continue to release aid to farmers that would otherwise be delayed, but she pulled back after protests from other Democrats, who complain that the Trump administration has favored southern states such as Georgia — a key swing state and home of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue — and larger producers in distributing bailout funds. Farmers are suffering from low commodity prices and the effects of higher tariffs imposed by Trump.

"The Trump Administration has proven they cannot be trusted to distribute payments fairly," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, top Democrat on the Agriculture Committee.

US cruises vow 100% testing in plan for resuming sailing

Major cruise lines say they will test all passengers and crew for COVID-19 prior to boarding as part of their plan for resuming sailing in the Americas.

The Cruise Lines International Association, a trade group that represents 95% of global ocean-going cruise capacity, said Monday that its members will also require passengers and crew to wear masks while onboard whenever physical distancing can't be maintained.

No date has been set for the resumption of cruising in the U.S., the Caribbean and Mexico. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a no-sail order for U.S. waters through Sept. 30. The association's safety plan will now go to the CDC, which will consider it as the agency decides whether to lift the no-sail order. The order has been extended twice since March.

The cruise association has issued a voluntary suspension of cruises through Oct. 31. In a conference call Monday, Arnold Donald, the president and CEO of Carnival Corp., said once the CDC lifts its order, it will probably take cruise lines at least a month to prepare their ships and train crew before they can sail.

The safety plan requires testing of passengers and crew, but doesn't specify the types of coronavirus tests that companies must use, CLIA Chairman Adam Goldstein said. Passengers and crew must test negative to board.

The plan permits limited shore excursions and requires passengers to wear masks and stay apart from other people during those excursions. Passengers who don't comply won't be allowed to reboard.

The plan also requires ships to increase the amount of fresh air in their ventilation systems and use advanced filtration methods where feasible.

Cruise company executives said the limited resumption of cruising in Europe and elsewhere over the last few weeks has convinced them that cruising can be done safely. Costa Cruises, which is owned by Carnival Corp., has two cruises of Italy this month. The ships aren't at full capacity and only Italian passengers are on board.

In August, a passenger on board the Paul Gauguin, a ship owned by Tahiti-based Paul Gauguin Cruises, tested positive for COVID-19 despite a health screening prior to boarding, CLIA said. The passenger and a family member were removed from the ship and placed in isolation on land. No other passengers were affected, CLIA said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
27,147.70	3,281.06	10,778.80
−509.72	−38.41	−14.48
1.84%	1.16%	0.13%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3858	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501	Russian Ruble	74.6728
British Pound	0.7808	Indian Rupee	73.0717	Singapore Dollar	1.3631
Canadian Dollar	1.3311	Japanese Yen	104.5140	South Korean Won	1141.26
Chinese Yuan	6.6970	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1029	Swiss Franc	0.9150
Euro	0.8501	New Zealand Dollar	1.4996	Taiwan Dollar	28.6072
		Philippine Peso	47.6186	Thailand Baht	31.3420

Nation

High court front-runner hailed by right, feared by left

CHICAGO (AP)—A front-runner to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a federal appellate judge who has established herself as a reliable conservative on hot-button legal issues from abortion to gun control.

Amy Coney Barrett, a devout Catholic, is hailed by religious conservatives and others on the right as an ideological heir to conservative icon Antonin Scalia, the late Supreme Court justice for whom she clerked. Barrett met with Trump at the White House on Monday, according a person familiar with the vetting process who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Liberals say Barrett's legal views are too heavily influenced by her religious beliefs and fear her ascent to the nation's highest court could lead to a scaling back of hard-fought abortion rights. She also would replace the justice who is best-known for fighting for women's rights and equality.

President Donald Trump has said he'll nominate a woman and Barrett is thought to be at the top of his list of favorites. The Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judge was considered a finalist in 2018 for Trump's second nomination to the high court, which eventually went to Brett Kavanaugh after Justice Anthony Kennedy retired. Barrett›s selection now could help Trump energize his base weeks before Election Day.

In this May 19, 2018, file photo, Amy Coney Barrett, United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit judge, speaks during the University of Notre Dame's Law School commencement ceremony at the university. AP

At just 48, Barrett would be the youngest justice and her tenure could last for decades. She's made her mark in law primarily as an academic at the University of Notre Dame, where she began teaching at age 30. She first donned judges' robes in 2017 after Trump nominated her to the 7th Circuit.

But she wouldn't be the only justice with little prior experience as a judge: John Roberts and Clarence Thomas spent less time as appellate judges before their Supreme Court nominations and Elena Kagan had never been a judge before President Barack Obama nominated her in 2009.

Barrett mentioned Kagan when asked in a White House questionnaire in 2017 about which justices she admired most, saying Kagan brought to the bench "the knowledge and skill she acquired as an academic to the practical resolution of disputes."

When Barrett's name first arose in 2018 as a possible Trump pick, even some conservatives worried her sparse judicial record made it too hard to predict how she might rule. Nearly three years on, her judicial record now includes the authorship of around 100 opinions and several telling dissents in which Barrett displayed her clear and consistent conservative bent.

She has long expressed sympathy with a mode of interpreting the Constitution, called originalism, in which justices try to decipher original meanings of texts in assessing if someone's rights have been violated. Many liberals oppose that strict approach, saying it is too rigid and doesn't allow the Constitution to change with the times.

Barrett's fondness for original texts was on display in a 2019 dissent in a gun-rights case in which she argued a person convicted of a nonviolent felony shouldn't be automatically barred from owning a gun. All but a few pages of her 37-page dissent were devoted to the history of gun rules for convicted criminals in the 18th and 19th centuries.

And, all indications are that Barrett is staunchly opposed to abortion, though she has often side-stepped answering questions about the topic.

In the 2017 White House questionnaire, Barrett was asked if it was her view that abortion was always immoral. She didn't answer the question directly but said: "If I am confirmed (to the 7th Circuit), my views on this or any other question will have no bearing on the discharge of my duties as a judge."

In a 2013 Texas Law Review article, Barrett listed fewer than 10 cases she said are widely considered "super-precedents," ones that no justice would dare reverse even if they believed they were wrongly decided. Among them was Brown vs. Board of Education, which declared racial segregation in schools unconstitutional.

One she didn't include on the list: Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark case that affirmed a woman's right to abortion. Scholars don't include it, she wrote, because public controversy swirling around it has never abated.

Abortion and women's rights were the focus of a bruising 2017 confirmation process after Barrett's nomination to the 7th Circuit.

Others pointed to Barrett's membership of the University of Notre Dame's "Faculty for Life" group—and that she had signed a 2015 letter to Catholic bishops affirming the "value of human life from conception to natural death."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein told Barrett her views suggested religious tenets could guide her thinking on the law, the California Democrat telling Barrett: "The conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you."

Judge: Postal Service must process election mail on time

NEW YORK (AP)—For the second time in a week, a federal judge said a nationwide order is necessary to ensure mail for November's election is delivered on time, and he is threatening to demand weekly updates on efforts by the U.S. Postal Service to process election mail.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero in Manhattan largely sided with several people across the country, including candidates for public office, who claimed in a lawsuit that President Donald Trump, the Postal Service and the new postmaster general were endangering election mail.

"The right to vote is too vital a value in our democracy to be left in a state of suspense in the minds of voters weeks before a presidential election, raising doubts as to whether their votes will ultimately be counted," Marrero said. He ruled after conducting a hearing Wednesday.

Officials at the Postal Service are reviewing the ruling, spokesperson Marti Johnson said in a written statement.

"There should be no doubt, however, that the Postal Service is ready and fully committed to handling expected increased volumes of Election Mail between now and the conclusion of the November 3rd election," the statement said. "Our number one priority is to deliver the nation's Election Mail securely and in a timely fashion."

Last week, U.S. District Judge Stanley Bastian in Yakima, Washington, ordered an end to postal practices nationwide that slowed mail delivery since July, saying 14 states had made a "strong showing" that the Trump administration was using the Postal Service "as a tool in partisan politics."

Like Bastian, Marrero said the agency's workers must treat election mail as First Class Mail.

Marrero's 87-page ruling was more specific than Bastian's 13-page order as he cited public statements, including from Trump, to explain why he can't trust government assurances that new policies hampering mail delivery had been fully suspended.

"Substantial evidence indicates that the supposed rollback of the challenged practices is either unenforced and not yet fully implemented or possibly insincere," Marrero said. "The controversy Plaintiffs raise remains very much alive."

He said Trump, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the Postal Service "have not provided trusted assurance and comfort that citizens will be able to cast ballots with full confidence that their votes would be timely collected and counted."

Instead, he said, their actions have given "rise to management and operational confusion, to directives that tend to generate uncertainty as to who is in charge of policies that ultimately could affect the reliability of absentee ballots, thus potentially discouraging voting by mail."

"Conflicting, vague, and ambivalent managerial signals could also sow substantial doubt about whether the USPS is up to the task," he said.

Biggest unknown with Beta is how much rain it will bring

HOUSTON (AP)—As Tropical Storm Beta neared the Texas coast Monday, the biggest unknown was how much rainfall it could produce in areas that have already seen their share of damaging weather during a busy hurricane season.

Beta's winds were weakening as it got closer to making landfall sometime Monday evening and the storm was not expected to strengthen into a hurricane. But its path along the Texas coast over the next couple of days once it gets inland could produce bands of showers with heavy rainfall, forecasters said. Rain from Beta was already coming down Monday in the Houston area.

"This still is probably the most uncertain part of the forecast," Dan Reilly, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in the Houston-Galveston office, said about rainfall from Beta.

Earlier predictions of up to 20 inches (51 centimeters) in some areas were downgraded Monday to up to 15 inches (38 centimeters). Texas coastal counties were most likely to see 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) with 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimeters) farther inland, Reilly said.

Forecasters and officials reassured residents Beta was not expected to be another Hurricane Harvey or Tropical Storm Imelda. Harvey in 2017 dumped more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) of rain on Houston, causing $125 billion in damage in Texas. Imelda, which hit Southeast Texas last year, was one of the wettest cyclones on record.

World

Duterte extends virus calamity status by a year

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte says he has extended a state of calamity in the entire Philippines by a year to allow the government to draw emergency funds faster to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and harness the police and military to maintain law and order.

Duterte first placed the country under a state of calamity in March when the number of confirmed infections was approaching 200 with about a dozen deaths. The country now has more than 290,000 confirmed cases, the highest in Southeast Asia, with nearly 5,000 deaths.

The tough-talking president lashed anew at critics in his televised remarks late Monday for accusing his administration of not doing enough to contain the outbreaks.

"What 'enough' do you want? There are hospitals, beds and funeral parlors. Everything is there," Duterte said, specifying Vice President Leni Robredo, who leads the opposition, in his tirade.

"You know Leni, if you want, if you really want to do away with COVID, let's spray the Philippines or Manila over with pesticide to kill all ... The only thing that we can do, really, is to wear a mask, wear a face mask, and that's it and wait for the vaccine," Duterte said in his southern hometown in Davao city.

The state of calamity in place until September 2021 will be used mainly to draw emergency funds quickly anywhere in the country. Officials can also control the prices of basic commodities like rice and cooking oil under such a state of calamity.

Quarantine restrictions such as social distancing remain as they are now.

Duterte also said a ban on the deployment of Filipino nurses, doctors and other health workers with finalized work contracts abroad has been lifted. Those without signed contracts remain prohibited from leaving the country to ensure an adequate supply of medical workers amid the continuing outbreaks.

Madrid adopts virus restrictions exposing poor-rich divide

MADRID (AP)—Heightened restrictions to stem Europe's fastest coronavirus spread in some of Madrid's working-class neighborhoods brought a heated debate over the prevalence of inequality in Spain back into the spotlight Monday.

The measures, including a requirement to justify trips out of the neighborhoods and reduced occupancy in shops and restaurants, affect some 860,000 residents and have been met with protests because many of those affected feel that authorities are stigmatizing the poor.

Spain is struggling to contain a second wave of the virus, which has killed at least 30,600 people, according to the country's health ministry.

Madrid has become the epicenter of contagion, with an average rate of infection—746 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in two weeks—nearly three times the national average of 280. Europewide, that number last week was 76.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, a Socialist, met on Monday with Isabel Díaz Ayuso, of the conservative opposition Popular Party, agreeing for central and regional officials to hold bi-weekly technical and weekly political meetings to coordinate a stronger response to the outbreaks.

The central government is going to contribute by providing more health resources and military help, Sánchez said without elaborating.

"Madrid requires a special plan," the prime minister said. "We should be ready to contemplate other scenarios if it were necessary."

A few dozen protesters clad in Spanish flags called for Sánchez to step down outside of the Madrid government's meeting place.

On Sunday, hundreds had also taken their grievances to the streets, clapping in unison while shouting for Ayuso to step down. The protesters also called for the new restrictions to be extended to all the city, expressing anger at authorities for acting late and targeting the poorest areas while not doing enough to reinforce the region's health centers with more staff.

Declaration of UN's 75th year anniversary urges global unity

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The world's often-divided nations united Monday to adopt a declaration commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, saying the urgency for all countries to come together "has rarely been greater" amid global challenges ranging from the coronavirus pandemic to climate change and violent extremism.

The declaration, approved by 193 member nations at the mainly virtual commemoration, praises the United Nations as the only global organization with the power to bring countries together and give "hope to so many people for a better world and ... deliver the future we want."

Born out of the horrors of World War II, the United Nations was established to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war—words enshrined in the U.N. Charter.

The declaration recalls the U.N.'s successes and failures over more than seven decades and vows to build a post-pandemic world that is more equal, works together and protects the planet.

Even at times of great tension, the declaration says, the U.N. promoted decolonization, freedom, development, human rights and equality, "and worked to eradicate disease." And it "helped mitigate dozens of conflicts, saved hundreds of thousands of lives through humanitarian action and provided millions of children with the education that every child deserves."

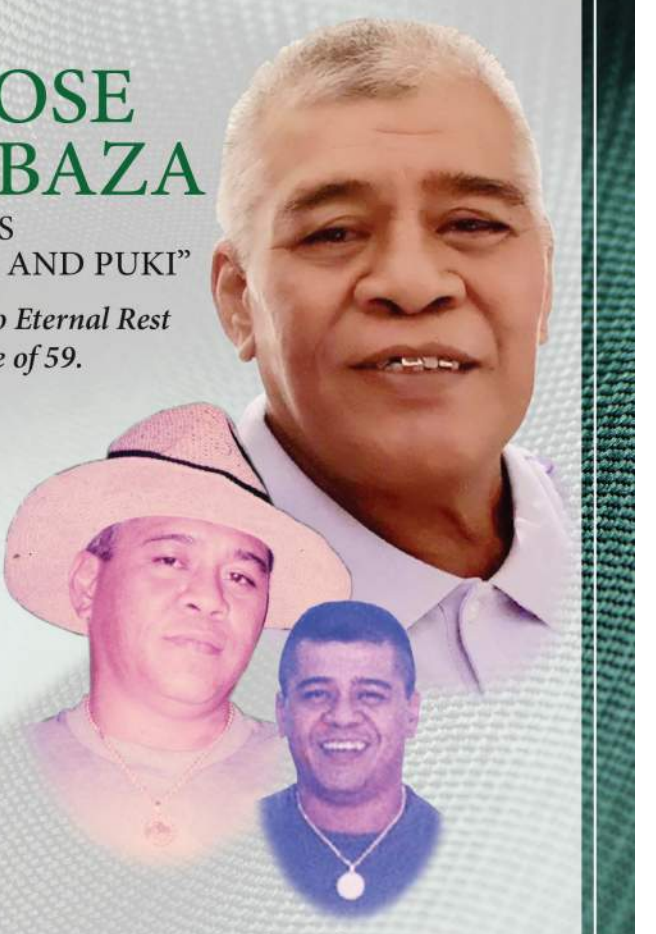
As for disappointments, the declaration says the world "is plagued by growing inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflicts, terrorism, insecurity, climate change and pandemics." It says the poorest and least developed countries are falling behind, decolonization is not complete and people are forced to make dangerous journeys in search of refuge.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

GREGORIO JOSE CHARGUALAF BAZA

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS
"GORO, GORO BAZA, GORO BOY, AND PUKI"

Born on October 09, 1960 and called to Eternal Rest on September 10, 2020 at the age of 59.



In his new life, he now joins his

Parents: †Gregorio Blas Baza and †Felisa Chargualaf Baza

Siblings: †Trinidad Chargualaf Baza Carlson, †Joseph Diego Chargualaf Baza, †Benjamin Paul Chargualaf Baza

Nephews: †Joseph Gregorio Baza Villacis, †Benjamin Baza Magofna

Parents in-law: †Alfonso Arriola Palacios, †Emilia Pangelinan Palacios

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his

Wife: Consuelo P. Park-Baza (Connie)

Children: Jonathan P. & Jocelyn C. Park (Princess, Trevor, DaeYoung), Emilisa B. & Roy Jr. Norita (Hu'nonnie, Hunnie Tae, Hu'annie Felisa (Chicha)) Joseph P. Baza & Alexis Deleon Guerrero (Joseph King)

Siblings: †Trinidad Ch. Baza Carlson & Children, Elizabeth & Tony Barge and Family, Dorothy & Bob Post and Family, Alvin & Susan Baza and Family, Jessica Ch. Baza and Family, Lillian B. & Robert Diaz and Family, Vivian B. & Lorenzo Iriarte and Family

In-Laws: Jose P. & Vicenta Sablan and Family, Antonio P. Sablan & Patricia Concepcion and Family, Marian Palacios & Alvin Ogo and Family, Barbara & † Thomas F. Ada and Family, Alexander P. Sablan & Cecilia Repeki and Family, Donald P. Palacios & Elizabeth Tebuteb and Family, Regina Pangelinan, Albert P. & Tricia B. Palacios and Family

Our dearly beloved Gregorio will also be remembered by numerous, Uncles, Aunts, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins, and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral Church, Monday thru Sunday at 6:00 AM.

On Saturday, September 26, 2020 our dearly beloved will be escorted from Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation at 9:00 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church where the Responso, Viewing and Mass for Christian Burial will be held. The Mass is set for 11:00 a.m. He will then be escorted to the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa, where he will be laid to rest.

Please join us in prayer.

Thank you / Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Good Housekeeping

8 ways to make school-at-home lunches easier

By GENEVIEVE KO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TNS
One-pan pasta with tomato sauce.

I love cooking—that's why I don't like packing school lunches. It's no fun making food that inevitably tastes subpar after hanging out in a brown bag for hours. Online schooling eliminates that issue but invites countless other mealtime problems, so I'm approaching "school lunch" the same way I always have: as a chore, not a joy. (And yes, I'm writing less as a professional cook and more as a working mother of three who is very, very tired.)

The tips below come from years of optimizing efficiency in restaurant and test kitchens and in my kitchen at home as well. They also address the cooking questions mom friends have asked me since quarantine started and the challenges they've shared. Feeding children is as much a mental and emotional struggle as it is a logistical one. Here are some ways to make it easier:

Go easy on yourself

You don't need to stack artisanal sandwiches or fashion Hello Kitty faces on onigiri rice balls concocted from ham and seaweed. If you have the desire and energy for that next-level lunch-making, go for it. If not, don't feel bad about it.

There have been days when I'm so exhausted from work (ironically, cooking) that I've simply popped open a can of beans, cut up a pepper and tossed string cheese packs on the table for a "meal." My kids are still alive.

Don't make three meals a day; batch cook for future meals

In April, one of my friends told me how wiped out she was from cooking breakfast, lunch and dinner—and doing all the dishes in between. My response: That's crazy. Unless you actively want to be doing all that, don't.

Instead, cook a lot when you feel like it and save leftovers for the times you lack kitchen motivation. Morning people can make huge breakfasts that last until lunch; folks with evening meetings can prep enough lunch to stretch to dinner. If you'd rather not eat the same thing for two meals in a row, refrigerate or freeze leftovers to reheat for future meals.

If you don't want to do breakfast, buy cereal or make a big pot of oatmeal to last all week. If your kids insist on eggs every day, teach them to fry or scramble their own if they're old enough to deal with the stove. Otherwise, boil half a dozen at once and keep them in a grab-bowl in the fridge. To streamline daily lunch prep, prepare big batches of building blocks, such as grains and beans, and keep them ready-to-scoop in refrigerated airtight containers.

Create a lunch routine

A lot of kids are perfectly content eating the same lunch most days or prefer the regularity of a scheduled menu. (And most home cooks find that deciding what to make is half the struggle of preparing a meal.) Make everyone happy by establishing a regular lunch repertoire: You can keep dishes in rotation to eat when cravings strike or assign certain lunches to certain days. My youngest always looked forward to "pasta Mondays" in her school cafeteria, so I'm going to re-create that for her, both to make her happy and to eliminate the stress of decision-making for me.

Leftovers are the best

If there's a silver lining to school-at-home, it's the ability to reheat leftovers for your kids midday. Popping a plate in the microwave takes less time than slapping together a grilled cheese sandwich, and it feels special to eat a steaming not-steam-table hot lunch.

Prepare dishes that hold up or even improve post-chill, such as roasted vegetables or anything stewed or braised. Rice, whether fried or seasoned with cilantro and lime, still tastes great after zapping. While pasta usually doesn't reheat well, this one-pan number does. Toasting the noodles first keeps them al dente forever.

Assemble a 'lunch box' for the fridge

If you're more of a cold-lunch family, make last-minute assembly easier by keeping all the ingredients together. Once you've figured out your repertoire, group what you need in an open container in the fridge. When it's time for lunch, simply slide out the box full of sandwich or taco or salad fixings. It saves a little time and a lot of frustration digging around for that pack of sliced provolone. Do the same for any pantry items dedicated to lunch, keeping the box easily accessible wherever you have space.

If you're adding leftovers or other unmarked ingredient containers to either box, use painter's or masking tape to label them. So when someone who knows how to read keeps asking, "What do we have for lunch?," you can simply gesture toward your lovely labels.

Experiment with seasoning vegetables

I'm often asked how to get kids to like vegetables and other nutritious foods, and I wish I had a magic solution that works for everyone. The one thing I can say is that a little seasoning goes a long way. Some kids like plain raw carrots, celery, cucumbers and tomatoes. All of those options—and really, anything else—taste better with a little sprinkle of salt. If you're feeling ambitious, you can make a dip, salsa, dressing or crunchy topping to serve with raw and cooked vegetables.

Pickles add a bright tang to a meal, and homemade ones can be a fun family project. If you want an instant pickle-y option, simply toss sliced vegetables with a pinch each of salt and sugar and a splash of lemon juice or vinegar.

Let kids DIY

One of the first lessons in any professional kitchen is to taste what you're cooking. You become invested in the dish's outcome and learn about seasoning in the process. Over many years of teaching cooking classes and hosting playdates, I've seen how getting kids involved in prepping the meal makes them more likely to eat the food. Even toddlers can have a (messy) hand in it. Whether they sprinkle cheese on a tortilla, spread jelly over peanut butter or stir sauce into ramen, they'll be more excited to eat their own creations.

I would be lying if I said this will make your life easier. It will not. It will make your kitchen messier and take more time, but it may make your little (and big) ones consume more if they're fussy eaters.

Older kids can make their own lunches from start to finish, and yes, that process should include putting dishes away. You can set up the menu and fridge lunch-box, or let them determine what they want. My daughters are now teenagers and enjoy putting together their own midday meals. And because grocery shopping is one of the few things they can do during quarantine, they also like trips to choose their own ingredients.

Bake cookies

With everything we have to do as parents during online schooling, baking Cookies may not seem like a smart move. It's neither "lunch" nor "vegetables." But the act of it can be therapeutic alone time or sweet family bonding time, and the result of it is a way to brighten kids' "school" days. Cookies can't replace classmates or teachers or recess (or lunch, I guess), but they can bring joy.

In Loving Memory of

†Magdalena Muna Cabrera

Lovingly known as Denang or Nencho
October 17, 1941 – September 17, 2020

Will be greeted at the gates of Heaven by her:
Daughter: Marie Elaine M. Cabrera
Parents: Juan S. Cabrera & Joaquina M. Cabrera
Grandson: Ryan Junior Sablan Cabrera
Sister: Antonio M. Cabrera

Survived by her son:
Daniel J. Cabrera & Maggie S. Cabrera

Grandchildren:
Christopher G. Cabrera
Marlon & Catherine A. Cabrera (Caleb, Calen & Cayli)
Deendra S. Cabrera (Shane)
Ashley C. & Jacob Saralu (Jaley Grace, Jacob David Jr.)
Kevin S. Cabrera & Dionne Ilo (Benzee and Faith)

Mother of Christopher and Marlon:
Tita Travilla Gabredo

Siblings/In-Laws:
Maria M. Celis & †Augustin M. Celis and Family
Frances M. Sablan & †Gregorio B. Sablan and Family
Juan M. Cabrera Jr. & Dyna B. Cabrera and Family
Rose C. Hunt and Family
Jose M. Cabrera & Victoria C. Cabrera and Family
Charlie M. Cabrera
Georgia M. Cabrera & Vivian Cabrera
Bernadita C. & Pedro Itibus
Victoria D. Dela Cruz

Caretaker:
Grace Enriquez

Daily Mass is being offered between St. Jude and San Antonio Parish, dates and times as follows:

Sept. 21, 2020 – 6pm, St. Jude
Sept. 22, 2020 – 6pm, San Antonio
Sept. 23, 2020 – 6pm, San Antonio
Sept. 24, 2020 – 6pm, St. Jude
Sept. 25, 2020 – 6pm, St. Jude
Sept. 26, 2020 – 6pm, San Antonio
Sept. 27, 2020 – 6am or 10am, St. Jude/ 8am or 6pm, San Antonio

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, September 28, 2020. Her remains will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel and will depart at 7:30am. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to San Antonio Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment services at Sanctuario Pax in Kagman where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
From the Family

Life & Style

Zendaya becomes youngest lead drama actress to win Emmy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zendaya said her "heart was filled" when she saw her fellow nominees, including Jennifer Aniston, cheering on the "Euphoria" actress for becoming the youngest drama lead actress to win an Emmy.

The 24-year-old Zendaya became emotional after she took home the trophy for her role in the HBO series, scoring one of the few long shot victories Sunday night. She is only the second Black actress to claim the lead drama actress award, following Viola Davis' groundbreaking 2015 win for "How To Get Away With Murder."

Zendaya's family and friends screamed, cheered, hugged and cried behind her as the stunned actress accepted the award in what appeared to be a hotel suite.

"I usually don't cry," she said in a virtual backstage interview. "I got through it without letting it take over me. It was a very emotional moment. I still can't believe it myself. It's pretty crazy."

On "Euphoria," Zendaya plays Rue Bennett, a teenage addict struggling with her sobriety and recovery on the series that delves into sex, drugs, trauma and identity among high-schoolers.

"I just want to say there is hope in the young people out there," she said. "I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that," but she thanked them for "doing the work."

Zendaya said she was grateful to share the moment with family and friends despite the coronavirus pandemic, which has restricted interaction with loved ones.

"I think it's moments like this that we really have to hold on to and cherish," said the actress, who overcame a strong group of nominees that included Aniston, Olivia Colman, Jodie Comer, Laura Linney and Sandra Oh.

(THE TELEVISION ACADEMY AND ABC ENTERTAINMENT VIA AP)

In this video grab captured on Sept. 20, 2020, courtesy of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and ABC Entertainment, Zendaya accepts the award for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for "Euphoria" during the 72nd Emmy Awards broadcast.

Gina Yashere memoir 'Cack-Handed' to be released in June

NEW YORK (AP)—Gina Yashere has some tough stories to share but also some inspiring ones.

A memoir by the comedian, writer and producer and actor is called, "Cack-Handed" and comes out June 8, Amistad announced Monday. According to the publisher, an imprint of HarperCollins, Yashere will trace her life from growing up as a child of Nigerian immigrants in London to enduring the racist and sexist comments of co-workers while she was an elevator engineer. It will also detail the fulfilling of her dream of moving to the U.S. and becoming a top standup comedian.

"The definition of cack-handed is left-handed, which I am, and also awkward and clumsy, which I am. It also represents the unconventional track my life and career has taken," Yashere said in a statement. "This is a book about trying, whether you succeed or not. About wanting something and going for it, despite how ridiculous, impossible, and stupid it sounds to other people. I'm excited to take you guys on this journey through my crazy life."

The 46-year-old Yashere is a commentator on "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" and has starred in standup specials for Netflix and Showtime. She is a co-creator of the sitcom "Bob Hearts Abishola," which she also appears in and helps write.

(PHOTO BY CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP)

Gina Yashere, left, producer of the CBS series "Bob Hearts Abishola," and executive producer Chuck Lorre take part in a panel discussion on the show during the Summer 2019 Television Critics Association Press Tour at the Beverly Hilton, in a Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019 file photo, in Beverly Hills, Calif. A memoir by the comedian, writer and producer and actor Gina Yashere is called "Cack-Handed" and comes out June 8, 2020. Amistad made the announcement Monday, Sept. 21, 2020.

Emmy winners highlight push for social justice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Regina King and Uzo Aduba used the come-as-you-are fashion edict for Sunday's virtual Emmy Awards to highlight the national struggle for social justice.

Both Black actresses wore T-shirts featuring Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old EMT from Louisville, Kentucky, who was shot and killed by police in March. King's T-shirt featured Taylor's face.

"The cops still haven't been held accountable," King said in a Zoom session with media. "She represents just decades, hundreds of years of violence against Black bodies. Wearing Breonna's likeness and representing her and her family and the stories that we were exploring, presenting and holding a mirror up to on 'Watchmen,' it felt appropriate to represent with Breonna Taylor."

King won for actress in a limited series or a TV movie as the masked hero in HBO's "Watchmen."

Taylor was shot in her apartment after police officers executing a no-knock warrant burst in and killed her after returning fire from her boyfriend. None of the officers has been charged. One was fired and two others were placed on leave.

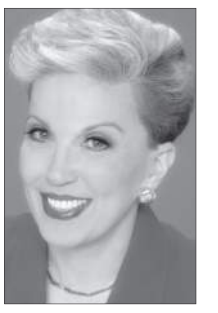
Aduba, sitting behind a table at home, wore a black T-shirt with Taylor's name in gold. King and Aduba were pleased to see each other's fashion choice.

"I loved when I saw her shirt and standing in it with such strength and power, which we all know she has," said Aduba, winner for supporting actress in a limited series or TV movie for "Mrs. America" in which she played Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

Aduba wanted to give a boost to the demands for social justice that have swept the nation during the coronavirus pandemic this year. Without an audience or red carpet, nominees were encouraged to wear whatever they wanted and say anything in accepting their trophies from wherever they chose to be.

Transgender playmate poses a challenge to girl's grandma

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My 7-year-old granddaughter, "Leyla," has a playmate who is a transgender girl. My fear is that she may find out the truth and feel betrayed by her playmate as well as me. Should I explain it to her?

It doesn't matter to me that her friend is transgender because I have always believed that a person's most important trait is having good morals. I'm an upfront and honest person. However, with respect to this subject, I feel that if I remain silent, it's as though I'm somehow betraying my granddaughter.

Leyla is very accepting of all people, and I don't believe it would change her relationship with the child as long as I explain everything to her about people who are trans. Any advice would be appreciated.

PROGRESSIVE GRAN IN ARIZONA

DEAR GRAN: Do Leyla's parents know about the friendship? Assuming they do, have a chat with them, as well as the playmate's parents, to make sure you're all on the same page. I do not think you should "out" Leyla's playmate to her. But I DO think it is time you start talking to your granddaughter about gender and what makes a girl a girl and what makes a boy a boy.

At some point, her friend may feel comfortable enough about the friendship—and herself—to tell Leyla herself. When that happens, be prepared to answer any questions your granddaughter may have. PFLAG, an organization I have mentioned before in my column, is an excellent resource for LGBTQ issues and will be helpful to you if you reach out. Its website is pflag.org.

DEAR ABBY: My worst fear has come true. My daughter just became engaged to someone we do not approve of. They have been together for three years, and it has been three years of drama -- from not working because they have to be together 24/7 to domestic violence. Must I attend the wedding? Should I help her plan it? She is my first born and I adore her, but I feel she is making a huge mistake.

RELUCTANT IN OHIO

DEAR RELUCTANT: I am going to assume that you have expressed your feelings and concerns to your daughter. If that's the case, then you must accept that she is an adult and capable of making her own decisions.

Should you help plan the wedding? Yes, as long as you are not paying for it. Should you attend even though you don't approve of her choice of husband? Absolutely! If he's a violent abuser, she is going to need family around her so she doesn't become isolated and totally under his control. Her life could depend on it.

DEAR ABBY: Sadly, my son passed away (suicide), leaving his two younger sisters. I am often asked how many children I have, and I'm never sure how to respond. I feel it would be disrespectful to my son's memory if I don't include him. However, if I do, it invariably leads to more questions than I care to answer. Any insight would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

REMEMBERING HIM

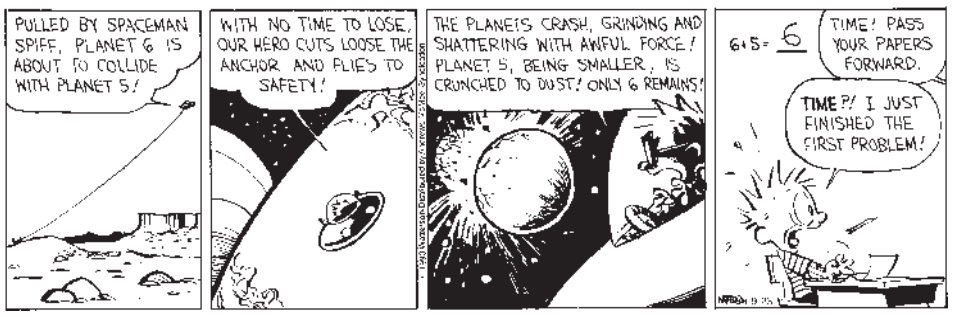
DEAR REMEMBERING: I am sorry for your loss. While a question about children is a way people often use to establish a common bond, it can be an emotionally loaded one. Consider offering this response: "I have three children. One of them is in heaven." If you are pressed further, it would not be impolite to respond that the subject is painful and you would rather not discuss it.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

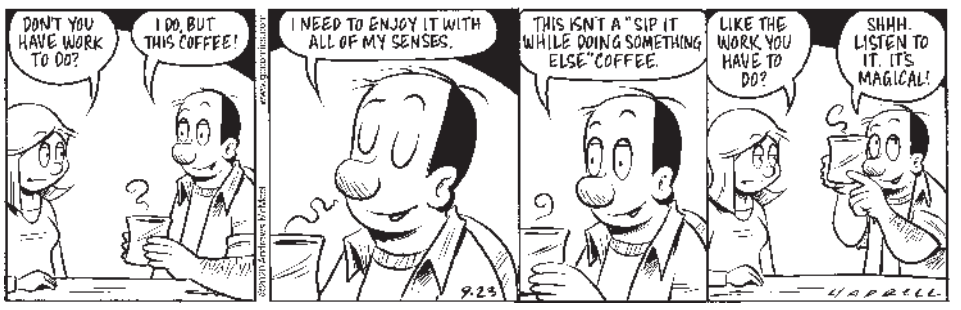

PULLED BY SPACEMAN SPIFF, PLANET 6 IS ABOUT TO COLLIDE WITH PLANET 5!
WITH NO TIME TO LOSE, OUR HERO CUTS LOOSE THE ANCHOR AND FLIES TO SAFETY!
THE PLANETS CRASH, GRINDING AND SHATTERING WITH AWFUL FORCE! PLANET 5, BEING SMALLER, IS CRUNCHED TO DUST! ONLY 6 REMAINS!
6+5=6
TIME! PASS YOUR PAPERS FORWARD.
TIME?! I JUST FINISHED THE FIRST PROBLEM!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

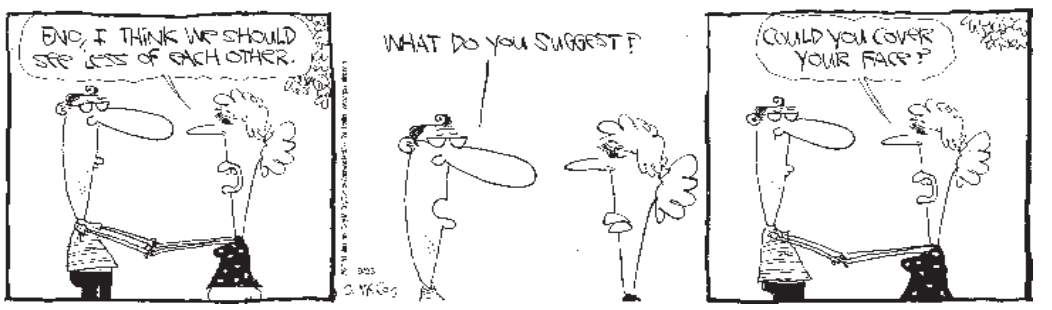
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TO DO?
I DO, BUT THIS COFFEE!
I NEED TO ENJOY IT WITH ALL OF MY SENSES.
THIS ISN'T A "SIP IT WHILE DOING SOMETHING ELSE" COFFEE.
LIKE THE WORK YOU HAVE TO DO?
SHHH. LISTEN TO IT. IT'S MAGICAL!
9-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Starting lineup?
5 Sneaky laugh
8 Mountain ht.
12 Shakespearean king
13 Yoko of music
14 Achy
15 Vacation home vista
17 "M*A*S*H" actress Loretta
18 Soft leather
19 Bread units
21 Nerd's kin
24 Mont. neighbor
25 Like ganders
28 Gimlet garnish
30 Sort
33 "Exodus" hero
34 Revealed
35 102, to Caesar
36 Game official
37 Landed
38 Adolescent
39 Env. contents
41 Pianist Peter
43 Arizona tribe
46 Put into law
50 TV's Trebek
51 Nevada gambling city
54 El —, Texas
55 Genetic stuff
56 Harvest
57 Picnic invaders
58 A billion years
59 Taxpayer IDs

DOWN
1 Shakespeare title starter
2 Suitor
3 Birthday dessert
4 Coat with flour
5 — polloi
6 Away from WSW
7 Allen Ginsberg poem
8 Maya Angelou piece
9 Bass, in a choir
10 A Great Lake
11 Nov. honorees
16 Churchill gesture
20 Unpaid
22 Airline to Tel Aviv
23 Japanese beer
25 Blemish
26 Verb for you
27 Boater's safety item
29 Apportion
31 Recline
32 Family
34 One of The Three B's
38 Laser printer refills
40 Greek vacation isle
42 Speed (up)
43 Wine valley
44 Country singer Jackson
45 Shoppe description
47 Mellows
48 "Misery" star James
49 Recipe amts.
52 Year in Mexico
53 — Juan

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	A	B	S	■	B	A	T	■	C	O	B	S
E	T	A	T	■	R	Y	E	■	A	R	L	O
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■	■	■	P	E	T	■	T	A	I	M	U	D
R	A	B	I	D	■	D	R	N	O	■	■	■
E	N	I	D	■	C	O	U	N	T	■	I	E	S
G	E	T	■	S	E	N	N	A	■	G	P	A
S	W	E	E	T	I	E	S	■	B	O	O	T
■	■	■	M	A	L	E	■	P	U	R	S	E
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O	N	E	I	■	N	I	N	E	T	■	I	E	S
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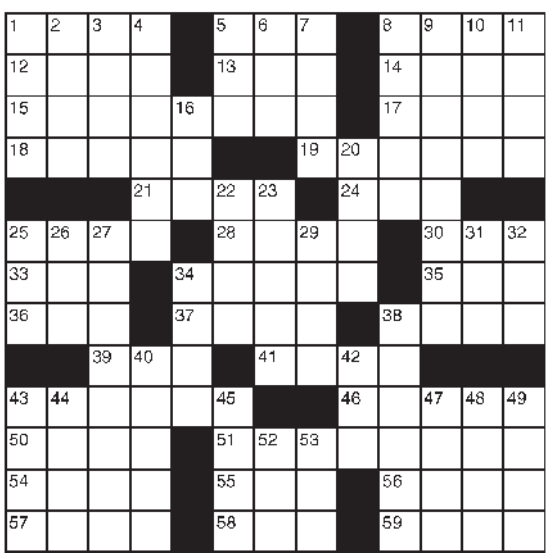
Yesterday's answer 9-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Mackie, 42; Jason Alexander, 61; Bruce Springsteen, 71; Mary Kay Place, 73.

Happy Birthday: Deal with unfinished business, and take advantage of opportunities heading your way. It's up to you to put an end to the perpetual uncertainty that has been tampering with your ability to get things done. Stay focused on what's important to you, and delegate other jobs to reliable people. Be a leader, not a procrastinator. Your numbers are 4, 19, 22, 26, 31, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Share your intentions with someone you love. Being around someone who brings out the best in you will make a difference in how your life unfolds. Too much of anything will lead to setbacks. Aim for steady progress. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put a strategy in place before you make a change. It's essential to have a plan and a backup to ensure you maintain stability in your life. Emotions will run deep when dealing with a friend, relative or lover. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Fix up your surroundings to suit your needs. The best way to get your way is with charm, incentives and kind words. Avoid people who are secretive or who take advantage of you. A physical improvement will boost your morale. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep an open mind, regardless of what's going on around you. Use your imagination and creativity to get ahead professionally. Don't exaggerate or promise more than you can deliver. An offer will lead to uncertainty. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stay in touch with people you enjoy working alongside, and you'll find new ways to collaborate. An idea you have will lead to a service you can offer from home. Social media will encourage new beginnings. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You are overdue for a change. If things aren't going the way you planned, look around you and make adjustments to ease stress. Handle sensitive situations with kid gloves in order to avoid provoking an argument with someone you love. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Putting up with disruptions and demands will stand between you and reaching your goal. Focus on what you want and the best way to deal with obstacles. Personal gain is possible if you do what's required. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Do a good job. Call on your resources to ensure you have paid close attention to details. You'll be judged by what you do, not by what you say. Refuse to let your personal life interfere with your professional responsibilities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Physical activity will be a healthy way to blow off steam. A passionate approach to life, love and pursuits will lead to success. Don't rely on others; take control, and see matters through from beginning to end. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Being secretive will make someone close to you suspicious. Be open regarding your whereabouts as well as your feelings. The outcome of a change you make at home will depend on honesty, integrity and motives. Don't let anger take over. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight, regardless of what others do. If you push yourself out of your comfort zone, you will be inclined to make poor decisions. Keep your money and belongings in a safe place. Personal improvements will bring the most satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be helpful without jeopardizing your reputation, finances or status. Offer unique suggestions, but don't take on the brunt of the responsibility or work. If you give the wrong impression, it will be difficult to change what someone thinks of you. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, energetic and temperamental. You are helpful and intelligent.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6					
	6		2		5		4	
		8				2		
			5		9			
6			1	8	3		5	9
5	3			7		4	1	
	2	3		9	8	1		
			3	2				
				5				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	6	1	3	4	7	9	5	8
3	9	8	5	6	2	1	4	7
7	5	4	9	8	1	6	2	3
9	8	6	4	7	3	2	1	5
5	1	3	2	9	6	8	7	4
4	7	2	1	5	8	3	6	9
8	4	9	6	1	5	7	3	2
6	3	7	8	2	4	5	9	1
1	2	5	7	3	9	4	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHARLIE DANIELS (1936-2020) Solution: 8 letters

K	T	P	M	A	W	S	I	M	P	L	E	M	A	N
H	E	R	M	I	T	A	G	E	C	R	N	B	T	A
I	N	Y	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	O	Y	U	S
N	N	R	O	S	M	A	E	R	D	B	R	C	C	H
R	E	P	L	F	V	B	A	N	D	R	T	O	K	V
E	S	O	E	E	E	I	B	Y	E	K	H	U	E	I
H	S	E	D	L	Z	E	L	J	N	C	C	N	R	L
T	E	L	W	G	A	A	T	A	(J)	H	A	T	O	L
U	E	O	A	U	N	O	H	I	(A)	E	R	R	I	E
O	M	D	R	L	O	O	C	R	(M)	Y	O	Y	N	L
S	U	N	D	F	N	O	L	D	A	E	L	E	U	D
E	B	A	E	E	N	E	H	O	C	N	I	L	J	D
U	L	R	Y	Y	S	A	E	N	U	N	N	O	W	I
L	A	G	E	O	R	G	I	A	K	E	A	O	A	F
B	L	U	E	G	R	A	S	S	E	D	O	W	N	R

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Album, Band, Barefoot Jerry, Beau, Bluegrass, Blues, Bob Dylan, Charles, Cheyenne, Cohen, Country, Cuke, Down, Dreams, Edward, Fiddle, Georgia, Grand Ole Opry, Gulf, Hank, Hazel, Hermitage, Honey, Icon, Jam, Junior, Key of E, Lead, Nashville, North Carolina, Rock, Simple Man, Southern, Swamp, Tennessee, Tucker, Uneasy, Williams, Wooley

Yesterday's Answer: Rolling Pins

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Mariners beat Astros, help A's claim AL West title

AP
Seattle Mariners right fielder Tim Lopes dives to catch a fly ball from Houston Astros' Alex Bregman in the first inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 21, 2020, in Seattle.

SEATTLE (AP)—Marco Gonzales threw eight shutout innings, Evan White broke the game open with a three-run homer in the seventh and the Seattle Mariners beat the Houston Astros 6-1 on Monday night.

Seattle's victory clinched the AL West title for Oakland, ending Houston's three-year run atop the division. The win also improved Seattle's slim hopes of catching the Astros for second place in the division and a guaranteed playoff spot. The Mariners are three games behind Houston with six remaining.

It was just the third win for Seattle in its past 27 meetings with Houston over the last two seasons.

Houston starter Lance McCullers Jr. (3-3) didn't allow a hit until Tim Lopes' one-out double in the sixth—but things quickly unraveled. Ty France had an RBI double and McCullers' night ended when White turned on a hanging 2-2 curveball and lined it over the left-field wall for his seventh home run and a 4-0 lead.

Indians 7, White Sox 4

Carlos Santana's two-run homer snapped a tie and Jose Ramirez homered again as Cleveland moved closer to clinching a playoff berth—and delayed Chicago's likely AL Central title.

The Indians cut their magic number to one.

After the White Sox scored four times in the fifth inning against Aaron Civale (4-5), Santana came to the plate in the bottom half. With Ramirez on first after a one-out walk, Santana pulled a 2-1 sinker from Jace Fry (0-1) over the left-field wall and into the empty bleachers to make it 6-4.

Angels 8, Rangers 5

Jared Walsh hit his first career grand slam during the Angels' seven-run fourth inning in an win over Texas.

Max Stassi had a two-run single in the final home game of the fifth consecutive losing season for the Angels (24-31), who have won 12 of 18 overall after taking three of four from Texas.

Walsh extended his hitting streak to 13 games when he mashed a sinker from Kyle Gibson (2-6) 450 feet over the ficus trees behind the centerfield fence at the Big A.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Derek Dietrich homered for the last-place Rangers.

Reds 6, Brewers 3

Eugenio Suarez hit a two-run homer, Luis Castillo won his fourth straight start, and streaking Cincinnati moved above .500 for the first time since opening day.

The Reds (28-27) won for the eighth time in nine games. The Brewers (26-27) had their season-high four-game winning streak snapped.

Suarez connected in the sixth inning off Brandon Woodruff (2-5), who had repeatedly escaped threats.

The Reds pulled away in the eighth against Drew Rasmussen. Curt Casali led off with a homer and Mike Moustakas added a three-run shot.

Cubs 5, Pirates 0

Jon Lester scattered four hits over six innings and the Cubs inched closer to their first NL Central title since 2017.

Lester (3-2) struck out one and walked one in his first victory since Aug. 11. He retired the first nine batters he faced and kept the lowest-scoring team in the majors in check. Only two of Pittsburgh's four hits left the infield.

Kyle Schwarber doubled twice and drove in a pair of insurance runs in the eighth.

Rays 2, Mets 1

Nate Lowe homered and scored both runs against NL Cy Young Award contender Jacob deGrom, and Tampa Bay overcame 16 strikeouts to move closer to an AL East title.

The Rays trimmed their magic number to one for their first division title since 2010.

DeGrom (4-2) pitched seven innings of two-run ball, striking out 14 to match his career high for the second time this season.

Nationals 5, Phillies 1

Bryce Harper was hitless in his return from back stiffness and Philadelpia manager Joe Girardi was ejected in the third inning of a loss to Washington.

Harper went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts as the designated hitter, dropping his average to .254.

Third-place Philadelphia fell to 27-27 and with six games left. Girardi and center fielder Roman Quinn were ejected in the third inning for arguing a call by plate umpire Junior Valentine.

Braves 5, Marlins 4

Austin Riley's two-run double capped a wild first inning and the deep Atlanta bullpen took it from there, allowing just one run over the final six innings to push the Braves a step closer to a third straight NL East title.

Tyler Matzek (4-3) pitched two hitless innings for the win, and Darren O'Day and Chris Martin each worked a scoreless frame. Will Smith escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth, and Mark Melancon claimed his 11th save.

Blue Jays 11, Yankees 5

Rookie Alejandro Kirk became the first catcher 21 or younger since Johnny Bench with at least four hits that included two for extra bases, and Toronto beat the Yankees.

Kirk, who played at Class A last season and made his debut Sept. 12, singled in the third off Michael King, doubled in the fourth against Jonathan Loaisiga, singled in the fifth off Nick Nelson and hit an opposite-field homer to right in seventh off Chad Green for his first four-hit game. Bench accomplished the feat as part of a five-hit game at Philadelphia on Aug. 3, 1969, according to STATS.

Randal Grichuk hit his first homer since Aug. 28.

Royals 4, Cardinals 1

Maikel Franco hit the go-ahead single with two outs in the sixth inning and the Kansas City bullpen shut down St. Louis from the fourth inning on.

Alex Gordon and Jorge Soler also drove in runs for the Royals, who returned for their final homestand after getting swept in Milwaukee.

Carlos Hernandez allowed one run over 3 2/3 innings before giving way to Jake Newberry, Scott Barlow, Josh Staumont (2-1) and Jesse Hahn, who combined to allow one hit—a two-out single by Paul Goldschmidt—without a walk over the next 4 1/3 innings. Greg Holland worked around a leadoff single in the ninth for his sixth save.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	36	19	.655	0.0
x-NY Yankees	31	23	.574	4.5
Toronto	28	26	.519	7.5
Baltimore	23	31	.426	12.5
Boston	20	34	.370	15.5
Central				
x-Chi White Sox	4	20	.630	0.0
x-Minnesota	33	22	.600	1.5
Cleveland	30	24	.556	4.0
Detroit	22	30	.423	11.0
Kansas City	22	32	.407	12.0
West				
y-Oakland	33	20	.623	0.0
Houston	27	27	.500	6.5
Seattle	24	30	.444	9.5
LA Angels	24	31	.436	10.0
Texas	19	35	.352	14.5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East				
Atlanta	32	22	.593	0.0
Miami	28	26	.519	4.0
Philadelphia	27	27	.500	5.0
NY Mets	24	30	.444	8.0
Washington	21	32	.396	10.5
Central				
Chi Cubs	32	22	.593	0.0
St. Louis	26	25	.510	4.5
Cincinnati	28	27	.509	4.5
Milwaukee	26	27	.491	5.5
Pittsburgh	15	39	.278	17.0
West				
x-LA Dodgers	38	16	.704	0.0
x-San Diego	34	20	.630	4.0
San Francisco	26	27	.491	11.5
Colorado	24	29	.453	13.5
Arizona	20	34	.370	18.0

x- clinched playoff spot
y- clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DeChambeau moves to No. 5 with US Open win

NEW YORK—Bryson DeChambeau matched a career high in the Official World Golf ranking with his U.S. Open win, moving past the other major winner from 2020 in the process.

DeChambeau cruised to six-shot victory Sunday at Winged Foot, where he was the only player to finish the week under par. His first major title helped him move from ninth to fifth in the latest rankings, tying a career-best position he also held in early 2019. He's now one spot ahead of PGA champ Collin Morikawa, who dropped to sixth after missing the U.S. Open cut.

Runner-up Matthew Wolff also made a big move, cutting his world ranking in half by going from 36th to 18th. Wolff is just 21 years old but now has finished T-4 or better in each of his two career major starts, and as a result he's now ranked ahead of a decorated group that includes Hideki Matsuyama, Justin Rose, Tiger Woods and others.

Louis Oosthuizen went from No. 25 to No. 16 after finishing alone in third, while Harris English went from 45th to 37th after finishing fourth. Will Zalatoris, who plays primarily on the Korn Ferry Tour, moved from No. 119 to No. 76 with a T-6 finish.

Dustin Johnson joined Zalatoris in sixth place and remains world No. 1 for another week, followed by Jon Rahm, Justin Thomas, Rory McIlroy and DeChambeau. With Morikawa now at No. 6, Webb Simpson, Xander Schauffele, Brooks Koepka and Patrick Reed round out the latest top 10.

After missing the cut at Winged Foot, Woods dropped one spot to No. 22 in the newest rankings.

Meanwhile, DeChambeau was asked to shift his focus to the next major championship.

Specifically, DeChambeau was asked how his brand of power golf would play at Augusta National this November.

"Length is going to be a big advantage there. I know that for a fact," DeChambeau said. "I'm going to try and prepare by testing a couple things with the driver."

DeChambeau's pre-Masters prep will include continuing to experiment with a 48-inch driver shaft. After averaging 336.3 yards off the tee at Winged Foot, DeChambeau doesn't plan on stopping in his quest for distance.

"We're going to be messing with some head designs and do some amazing with things with Cobra to make it feasible to hit these drives maybe 360, 370 [yards]," he said. "Maybe even farther. I don't know." ***(AP/NBC)***

AD has what it takes for biggest stage of career

AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis blocks a shot by Denver Nuggets' Michael Porter Jr., left, during the first half of an NBA conference final playoff game Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

FLORIDA (AP)—Anthony Davis caught the ball deep on the left side with the Lakers losing and time about to run out.

The shot Davis made to win Game 2 of the Western Conference finals was from nearly the same spot and situation as one he attempted in his team's last game before the NBA season was suspended.

He missed that one, sending the Lakers to a 104-102 loss to Brooklyn on March 10, and was bummed about it for a few days.

Not LeBron James, though. That moment just reinforced what he already believed about the All-Star forward the Lakers had acquired to play alongside him.

"You're not going to make them all, but the belief to just take it and live with the results is what it's all about," James said.

Davis has been making plenty so far in the deepest postseason run of his career.

He has been the dominant player in this series, where the Lakers have a 2-0 lead with Game 3 scheduled for Tuesday night. Davis followed his 37 points in Game 1 with 31 more on Sunday, including the Lakers' last 10.

The No. 1 pick in the 2012 draft, Davis had long been one of the NBA's best players by the time he got to Los Angeles last July. But it's one thing to be performing quietly in New Orleans, where just winning a postseason round made it a good season.

It's another thing to be playing with James, where not winning a championship makes it feel like a lost season.

"When I left, I just wanted to be able to compete for a championship, and I know that moments like this comes with it. Especially being in L.A., the biggest market in basketball," Davis said after the 105-103 victory on Sunday.

"I know the quote-unquote pressure is going to be on us, going to be on me, especially the first year with everything that happened last year, and then also playing alongside Bron," Davis said. "I know he gets criticized more than any basketball player ever."

So Davis felt he let down his superstar teammate on that shot against Brooklyn, when James drove into the lane and passed to him near the sideline. Davis had a wry smile on his face after the shot bounced off the rim, but it hid the disappointment he felt inside.

"LeBron will tell you. I mean, the first probably like four days, I was talking to him like, `Damn, I should have made that shot. I've got to make that shot," Davis said. "He's like, `You're fine, you're fine."

Davis had never made a buzzer-beating shot in the postseason and had only one in his entire career. Now he's on a list of Lakers that have done it in the playoffs, a group that includes Hall of Famers such as Kobe Bryant, Jerry West and Elgin Baylor, along with noted clutch postseason performers Derek Fisher and Robert Horry.

"Just because his teams haven't been good enough to reach this moment doesn't mean that he's not that caliber of player," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said.

Without Davis' shot, the Nuggets would have been celebrating another comeback victory. They trailed by 16 points and had already erased deficits of 15 or more against Utah and the Clippers in the first two rounds, on their way to overcoming 3-1 deficits in both.

So even though they are down, they don't feel out.

"They had to rely on a great shot by a great player to beat us at the buzzer," coach Michael Malone said. "But as long as we're putting ourselves in position to win games, that's all you can ask for.

"One thing I know about our group, even though we are disappointed, frustrated, angry, we'll use that motivation to come out and try to take Game 3."

Those comebacks weren't against teams as good as the Lakers, who are 10-2 in the playoffs and have won six straight. With James controlling the first half of Game 2 before Davis took over in the second, they had the look of a championship team.

"When they're both going at the same time," Vogel said, "we're near impossible to stop."

Back to work: Celtics, Heat get ready for pivotal Game 4

AP
Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown, left, and Miami Heat's Jae Crowder (99) exchange words as Kemba Walker (8) attempts to calm the situation during the second half of an NBA conference final playoff game, Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla

FLORIDA (AP)—Getting angry worked wonders for the Boston Celtics.

Their first win in these Eastern Conference finals just happened to come two nights after Marcus Smart sparked a loud and emotional series of shouting matches inside the Celtics' locker room, all of that starting only a few seconds after the Miami Heat won to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

That lead is down to 2-1 now, the Celtics playing brilliantly in Game 3 and leading wire-to-wire to take a bunch of newfound momentum into Game 4 of the series on Wednesday night.

"I've always been saying that before you see the rainbow, it has to storm," Smart said Monday, speaking about the post-Game 2 dustup for the first time publicly. "For us, that was a storm that we had to go through. We found our happy place."

It's now Miami's turn to find a happy place—though an unhappy place would seem more appropriate. The Heat never led in Game 3, got themselves into a double-digit hole for the third consecutive game in this series and fourth straight overall, and because of a scheduling quirk now get to sit around and stew for three full off days before getting a chance to atone for what went wrong Saturday.

"Look, there's two teams competing against each other," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "So as much as you want to say, `Hey, it's just about us and we just have to do X, Y and Z,' the Boston Celtics have something to say about that. Likewise, when they're doing whatever they're trying to do, we have something to say about that."

The Celtics' anger was no secret and was displayed at least somewhat publicly; reporters near their locker room heard the commotion after Game 2, with Smart being the one who lit the fuse.

"He's the guy that keeps us going and keeps us inspired, keeps us being competitive," Boston's Grant Williams said. "... You just have to follow his lead and trust that we have a lot of guys on this team that can do a lot of great things. He's just going to compete his butt off and we follow that standard."

The Heat didn't have a visible—or audible—blowup after Game 3, took Sunday off to rest physically and mentally, then got back to work Monday with a film session, on-court work and then more meetings set for the evening.

"Our spirit is right, our head is right, our energy is there, so I think we're responding the right way," Miami wing Jae Crowder said. "We're just trying to get better and trying to see how we can play a complete game, play a complete 48-minute game and be as sharp as we can be on both ends of the court. With that being said, I think we took the loss, we took the adversity in a good way. And we're still taking it in."

Some of the numbers posted so far in the East finals are more than a little overwhelming.

They're also simultaneously puzzling, at least from the Celtics' perspective.

There have been 17 instances of someone scoring to give his team a double-digit lead at some point in the first three games of the series; all 17 of those have been done by the Celtics. The Celtics have yet to trail by more than eight, have led by as much as 20 and have been in front for 75% of the first 149 minutes played in this matchup.

But it's Miami still leading the series, which is why the Celtics are seeking to show up for Game 4 with the same aggression that carried them in Game 3.

"I think each game is its own entity, so it is what it is. We're all on the same schedule," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "We know we're going to have to play the best game that we've played in Game 4 of this series to have a chance to win. That's just the way series work. That's the way the playoffs work. You have to get better every game."

Raiders open Las Vegas stadium with win vs Saints

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Derek Carr and the Las Vegas Raiders delivered a performance worthy of their fancy new home.

Too bad none of their fans were able to see it in person.

Carr threw three touchdown passes and the Raiders gave their new fans in Las Vegas plenty to celebrate even if they weren't allowed in the stadium by beating the New Orleans Saints 34-24 on Monday night.

The new $2 billion stadium in the desert held its first event following the Raiders' move from Oakland without any fans because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Hopefully our fans, even though they couldn't be here tonight, hopefully see something they like," coach Jon Gruden said. "We can't wait to get them back in this place. It's such a great place to see a game."

That was one of the few things that didn't go right for the Raiders (2-0), who overcame an early 10-point deficit to the Saints (1-1) and opened the season with two straight wins for the fourth time in the past 25 seasons.

"This organization means everything to me," Carr said. "They've stuck behind me through some hard times. Through some times our team, we struggled, there's no doubt about it. But when you can get on the other side of things, be 2-0, as the Las Vegas Raiders, that's a pretty cool thing."

Carr was in control for most of the night, completing 28 of 38 passes for 282 yards. Darren Waller had 12 receptions for 103 yards as Carr's most trusted option.

Carr engineered four straight scoring drives in the second and third quarters to turn a 10-0 deficit into a 24-17 lead.

"Derek Carr was awesome tonight," Gruden said. "He made some plays today that very few guys that I've coached could make. I tip my hat to him."

Picking apart the New Orleans defense with short passes, the Raiders controlled the clock and kept Drew Brees and the Saints off the field. Las Vegas converted 10 of 17 third downs and also went for it successfully twice on fourth down.

The Raiders even survived a fumbled pitch by Jalen Richard by stopping the Saints and then scoring on the ensuing drive on a 20-yard run by Richard.

After being gashed on the ground early, the Raiders did a good job against Brees, who struggled without his injured No. 1 receiver Michael Thomas.

Brees went 26 for 38 for 312 yards with one touchdown and a key interception at the end of the first half that set up a field goal for the Raiders.

"If there's one thing I wish I could take back from the game it would be that," Brees said. "Otherwise, we had a lot of metal errors. I felt like we were not playing as fast and just as sure and confident."

After the Saints cut the deficit to 31-24 on Alvin Kamara's second TD run, the Raiders took advantage of a pass interference call against Janoris Jenkins and then iced the game with a 54-yard field goal by Daniel Carlson.

"We got to do a better job coaching," coach Sean Payton said. "I don't think it's going to be a real pleasant film to watch—for some of our star players as well."

AP

Las Vegas Raiders running back Josh Jacobs (28) faces New Orleans Saints' defense during the second half of an NFL game, Monday, Sept. 21, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Coaches, teams fined for not covering faces

NFL coaches thumbed their collective—and exposed—noses at the NFL's mask mandate in Week 2.

The league responded with hefty fines of $100,000 per coach and $250,000 per club. The first three to get fined were Denver's Vic Fangio, San Francisco's Kyle Shanahan and Seattle's Pete Carroll, according to a person with knowledge of the punishment who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the coaches were not identified.

The punishment was meted out a week after the NFL reminded team personnel on the sidelines about the rules for wearing face coverings during the coronavirus pandemic, lest they put the fledgling season at risk.

More coaches and clubs can expect similar punishments as the memo last week from Troy Vincent, who oversees the league's football operations, was largely ignored throughout the weekend.

Among other offenders: Patriots coach Bill Belichick and his offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, Colts coach Frank Reich and Rams coach Sean McVay.

Capping a weekend of deliberate defiance and/or desultory disobedience, Raiders coach Jon Gruden, who said last week he felt Vincent's memo was directed at him, and Saints coach Sean Payton were shown on a split screen Monday night, both of them breaking the rules.

Gruden wore his mask like a chin strap, and Payton sported his gaiter like a turtleneck.

The scenes were similar Sunday with head coaches and assistants apparently finding it too hard to keep their faces covered as required under the league's COVID-19 protocols with either a mask, gaiter or face shield. Players, who, like the coaches, are subject to daily COVID-19 tests, are exempt from the face covering requirements.

Some coaches such as Belichick, McDaniels and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin wore their masks or gaiters over their mouths but not noses. Others such as Carroll, Spagnuolo and Fangio wore their face coverings around their chins or necks, exposing both their mouths and noses.

SABLAN

From Page 20

the 12 winners battling for the club championship.

Although MGA is nearly halfway through the season, it is still open for membership. Membership fees are only $40 for newcomers and $30 for returning members.

Meanwhile, MGA welcomed new members during the September Ace tournament. Joining the club were Keoni Chariton, Gus Palacios, Jerome Sablan, and Roderick Zandueta.

28

From Page 20

course will widen the field that will be equipped with the technical know-how in running triathlon events. This is one of the key steps we need to make as we prepare for hosting the Pacific Mini Games," Castro said.

'We're now waiting for OTU's instructions on how to proceed with the course," the TRAC official added.

Since the course is virtual, participants can take it on their own time. However, Dally is hoping to gather the pool for one session so they can have a Q & A event and discuss practical application of the rules.

The OTU official added that he decided to provide TRAC with the course formulated by Triathlon Australia because the association is one of the few nations that has been accredited to deliver International Triathlon Union-approved education programs.

"Whilst there is a small number of differences in the TA rules compared to the ITU rules, they are close to being exactly the same. The main differences occur as ITU focused on elite racing versus TA on participation events. I can assist in ensuring all understand the differences," Dally said.

Besides assisting TRAC in the technical official course, OTU is also working on finding coaching resources for the association.

TRAC needs resources and training, as triathlon is one of the events lined up for the next Pacific Mini Games that the CNMI will be hosting. The quadrennial competition is supposed to take place next year, but is on hold and the new date has yet to be decided due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the lull in both local and international events, TRAC is using the time off to strengthen its program, both on the competition and technical sides.

In July, TRAC encouraged its members to participate in the Go The Distance Challenge, which was a virtual race. Mid last year, the group sent an official to Apia, Samoa to observe how the triathlon event was ran during the Pacific Games. The association has also planned on holding virtual events to keep its members in shape while still following safety measures that the CNMI government is implementing to battle the virus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triathlon Association of the CNMI members team up with the Department of Public Safety personnel in handling traffic across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium during last year's Tagaman Triathlon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2018 file photo, Triathlon Association of the CNMI official Florence Antonio gives instructions to participants of Taga Kids.

Mariners beat Astros, help A's claim AL West title

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

AD has what it takes for biggest stage of career

PAGE 18

Sablan takes September Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John Sablan bested 29 other Marianas Golf Association members to bag the September Ace title and qualify for the club championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Golf Association members pose for a photo after competing in the September Ace tournament last Sept. 13 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Sablan fired a net 62 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort to top the monthly tournament held last Sept. 13. The former CNMI Junior National Basketball Team player won by three strokes against Gerald Guerrero and Charlie Peters. Guerrero and Peters had similar net scores of 65, but the former took second place after edging the latter on the scorecard playoff.

Peters, besides breaking into the Top 3 of MGA's September Ace tournament, had a closest to the pin shot on the par-3, 122-yard hole No. 15. Other closest to the pin winners on all par-3 holes were James Benavente on the 150-yard No. 4; Harry Nakamura on 130-yard No. 6; and Benjie Pangelinan on the 170-yard No. 11.

MGA's September Ace was the group's fifth tournament for the year. It started with the May Ace competition won by Ron Benavente, while Chris Leon Guerrero took the June title. Don Hallmark secured the July Ace, while MGA vice president Joey Dela Cruz clinched the August plum. The monthly tournament will run until April next year and the season will conclude with

See SABLAN on Page 19

John Sablan swings for a shot. CONTRIBUTEF PHOTO

28 sign up for triathlon technical official course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI is looking at increasing a pool that is capable of running competitions by partnering with an international federation in holding a technical official course.

Oceania Triathlon Union continental development coordinator Phil Dally has announced that TRAC will be given access to the Triathlon Australia Virtual Level 1 Technical Official Course and as of yesterday, 28 have signed up for the workshop. TRAC secretary general Ricky Castro said some of the registered participants of the course are from Guam since the CNMI's neighbor is also part of OTU.

"We're very grateful to OTU for responding to our needs and we are pleased with the response of the community as there are a lot of people who showed interest in taking the course. This

See 28 on Page 19

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
In this 2019 file photo, Tyce Mister heads to the swim-bike transition area during the IT&E Road to Tagaman Tri at Kilili Beach.

Weightlifting group meeting set for Sept. 26

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation is calling all weightlifters or any individuals interested in joining competitions to attend a meeting on Sept. 26 at the Kilili Beach Pavilion.

The meeting will take place at 10am and discussions will include the CNMI national team requirements, temporary training facility for national team members, and plans for training and competitions, particularly the Pacific Mini Games.

Individuals attending the meeting are welcome to list down any other concerns about the sport.

For more information, contact CNMI Weightlifting Federation secretary Jeanne Rayphand at 287-98-7 or send email to jeanneesq@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***